



THE CLF NEWSLETTER

Vol. X

November 1996

No. 4

Margaret J. Harris named Manager of the Clayton Library

At the Clayton Library Friends meeting on August 17th, Mr. Mario M. González, Assistant Director for Public Services, Houston Public Libraries, announced the appointment of Miss Margaret J. "Marje" Harris to the post of Manager of the Clayton Library. Miss Harris has been employed with Houston Public Library

since 1972 and has been with the Clayton Library, Center for Genealogical Research, for the past 20 years. Since October 1988, she has been serving as Assistant Manager. She holds a BA degree in library science from North Texas State University and an MLS (Master of Library Science) from Texas Woman's University. ■

An interview with Marje Harris

by Don Pusch

On August 17th, after the CLF meeting, I had the opportunity to interview Marje Harris in her office at the Clayton Library. Following are notes from that interview:

Q. Marje, you seemed pretty happy with today's announcement. Can you tell me how you feel about your appointment?

A. Well, I'm very excited and optimistic about the Library and its future. I'm also very honored to be selected Manager of Clayton Library, and I look forward to working with you and the other CLF volunteers. At the Friends meeting this morning, and since I returned to the Library this

afternoon, many people have offered their congratulations. I appreciate their good wishes and support.

Q. At this morning's meeting, you said you wanted to make Clayton the best genealogical research library in the country. Is that a realistic goal?

A. I was serious about that. Looking at the progress made the past few years, the strong support we've received from the City of Houston, and the rapid growth of the Friends organization, I sincerely believe we can make Clayton number one among public libraries specializing in genealogy and family history. When you think about it, why should our goal be anything less? With continued focus on service, expansion of the

collection, patron involvement, and an active Friends group, our chances for achieving that objective look very good to me.

Q. As a Clayton Library staff member and assistant manager, you probably have some pretty good ideas about what works and what doesn't. Can you comment on any changes you have in mind?

A. Well, you're right, I've been with the Library for the past 24 years and have had the pleasure of seeing our collection grow to one of the best in the country. I think that's due in large measure to the fact that we listen to our patrons and keep up with changing interests and new sources.

(Continued on page 3.)



Saturday, November 16th
Lecture Hall #2
Cullen College of Engineering
University of Houston
10:15 a.m.

SPEAKER:

Karen Stein Daniel, C.G.
Immediate Past President
Clayton Library Friends

TOPIC:

"The Basics and Beyond:
An In-depth Look at Union and
Confederate Sources
at Clayton Library"

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.

ELECTED OFFICERS

John Dorroh..... President
Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks..... 1st VP
Jerry M. Betsill..... 2nd VP
Vivian Hill Jordan..... Secretary
Frank L. Worley, Jr. Treasurer

FIRST TERM DIRECTORS

David B. Singleton
Robin N. Bashaw
Leon R. Evans

SECOND TERM DIRECTORS

Gay E. Carter
Gladys Rutledge Edwards
Charles L. Jensen

CLF NEWSLETTER STAFF

Donald E. Pusch, editor
Pat Metcalfe, assistant editor

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

President's column

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "legacy" as "something that has come from a predecessor or the past."

This means a lot to us as genealogists. Our work, by definition, is learning who our predecessors were and what they passed down to us. We start by discovering their names and their basic vital statistics: dates and places of births, marriages, and deaths. We then delve further to learn of their everyday lives, their accomplishments, and even their failures. We join lineage societies to honor the legacies they have left to us, legacies that may be military, patriotic, or cultural. That is all a matter of genealogy; but to Clayton Library Friends, our legacies are much greater.

Certainly, one outstanding legacy that we received was from Will and Susan Clayton, who gave us a building for our own branch of Houston Public Library. Clayton Library is one of less than half a dozen genealogical libraries in the country to be housed in a facility that is separate from the main library. We certainly received a legacy from Jesse Jones, the founder of Houston Endowment, the foundation that so generously provided major support to Clayton Library.

The list of our benefactors is noteworthy, but one of our most important would be the leadership of managers Mary Ulmer and Maxine Alcorn. From small beginnings, they guided the development of the collection into the giant of the genealogical world that it is today. Their legacy has now been passed to Marje Harris who worked with both of them. I speak for the membership when I say that we are 100% behind Marje and the library administration and are confident that we will continue to move forward in increasing the depth of the

collection and the array of services provided. Personally, I am very glad that there will be no "back-stroke" at Clayton Library.

So with the many legacies given to us, what do we, the 1996 membership of Clayton Library Friends, have to pass on to the future members and patrons?

First, I think the increase in membership is an outstanding contribution. Our hosting of the 1994 NGS convention gave us the necessary boost. Now, with the leadership of our 1st Vice President and Membership Committee, we have rocketed to over 1,300 members, the largest genealogical group in the state. Why not set ourselves a challenge to reach a total of 2,000 members by the year 2000? We are already on our way.

Second, we have seen a great increase in the services provided by Clayton Library Friends to its membership. Our newsletter has grown into a very scholarly quarterly that helps us learn more about the new acquisitions and how to use the many resources available at the library. This year, we offered one intermediate and two beginner seminars on using Clayton Library. Each had an attendance of close to 100. We hope to offer more advanced topics next year. And, the Friends has co-sponsored trips to Salt Lake City, Washington, D.C., and Nashville.

Third, we have added significantly to the collection. Membership donations helped complete the 1910 Soundex. Also, this year, we purchased portions of the 1920 Census Soundex valued at over \$40,000. I am very confident that we will complete this massive collection within a year or two. A detailed listing of donations

(Continued on page 13.)

Interview *(Continued from page 1.)*

That policy has served us well, and I don't see it changing. A good example is our acquisition of material that extends into the twentieth century, such as the federal census for 1900-1920. In less than four years, the federal government will open the 1930 census, and it is not too early to begin making plans for acquiring parts of that records set. We would also like to focus on the acquisition of city directories covering the early 1900s; these would be very useful in tracking families, particularly immigrants, throughout the United States.

One very big change that patrons will see over the next few years will be an increase in the use of electronic systems to aid in family history research. We will continue the development of our CD ROM collection and to explore new formats and resources as they become available. As noted at today's meeting of the Friends [presentation by Margaret Tufts], the recently implemented electronic finding aids project and expanded use of the Internet hold a lot of potential for future growth and enhancements. I think we are on the verge of some very exciting new ways to conduct family history research.

Q. Concerning computers and electronic catalogs, do you see those kinds of things changing the way we do family history research?

A. When used correctly, computer technology can provide significant benefits, and there is no doubt it will change some aspects of how we do family history research. I think the danger lies in assuming that computer-generated data can be used as a substitute for examining, evaluating, and carefully documenting primary source materials. Many of the CD ROMs that are in the library's collection list only names and dates. It is still critically important for the

researcher to verify the data and document the source of that data. The same pitfalls exist on the Internet. A tremendous amount of material is being placed on the Web, but often no documentation is provided and there is never a guarantee that the information is accurate. I think the fundamental elements of documentation, good scholarship, and a focus on preponderance of evidence, remain essentially unchanged.

Q. Concerning current library operations, are there any problem areas that you see as needing attention?

A. Although not necessarily a problem area, there is a continuing need to maintain and upgrade our existing collection. Some materials really do need to be replaced. For instance, we have quite a few well-worn rolls of census microfilm. Just like frequently used books, this film eventually wears out and must be replaced. Also, we have film in the collection that should be upgraded with better quality film. Archival microfilming processes have improved quite a lot over the years, and we need to take advantage of that.

With respect to the book collection, our preservation and re-binding efforts will continue. Since some of these books would be very difficult to replace, emphasis must be put on protecting them and extending their life. Fortunately, some of the older books are being reprinted, and it is important that we take advantage of opportunities to acquire these reprints. In some instances, such works are actually being revised as well as reprinted, so by acquiring them we can replace a worn book with one that actually contains corrected or updated information.

Q. Do you see any areas in the collection where improvements need to be made?

A. Tracing your family back into the country of origin can be very difficult. To help with that task, Clayton Library needs to further develop the foreign collection by adding reference materials such as gazetteers, handbooks, dictionaries, and directories. Also important are research aids that provide information on what records are available and where they are located.

Q. I know that use of the library has increased. Are there any plans to expand the building or parking areas?

A. As you know, the family histories collection was moved into the Clayton home a year ago following the building's renovation. That created much needed space in the main building. However, there are no plans at this time for renovation of the carriage house, guest house, or the second floor of the Clayton Home.

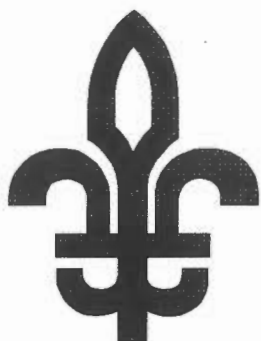
Q. Marje, thanks for taking time out of your "first day" to share some thoughts with me. Good luck in your new post and, once again, congratulations.

A. Thanks, Don. I think the future looks very good for Clayton Library, and I look forward to continued work with you and other members of the Friends organization. Please come and interview me again when we reach our goal of being NUMBER ONE!

□ E-Mail Addresses

If you have an Internet e-mail address and would like to correspond with the newsletter editor or assistant editor, we would be pleased to hear from you. Drop a note to:

Don Pusch (pusch@ghgcorp.com)
or
Pat Metcalfe (plpm@ix.netcom.com)



The "other" Colonial America: An overview of Clayton Library's research material on New France

by Donald E. Pusch

"Columbus discovered America. Then Englishmen came over, and they made colonies. After the English were here for a while, they had a revolution and became Americans, but they decided to keep speaking English so they could understand each other and use the same books. They also kept the same laws and made a congress that was like a parliament. That is why we all speak English and England is our Mother Country."

Remember the fourth grade? And does the above look strangely familiar? What bliss! What clueless bliss! Believe it or not, to millions of Americans (including, I suspect, a few genealogists), this bolognious monograph pretty much sums up the essentials of America's colonial history.

Those of us with ties to the "other" American colony—New France—have an entirely different view of American history. What kind of history essays would fourth-graders be writing today had the French and Indian War swung the other way or had the Louisiana Purchase been red-lined from the FY03 federal budget. And suppose Providence had not permitted the Frenchmen of New Orleans to be drawn into the insurrection of 1768-69 until they had grown up in strength sufficient to overcome the forces of Spanish governor O'Reilly!

Well, the purpose of this article is not to re-write history or to promote French-American nationalism but rather to address Clayton Library's fine collection of material available to researchers interested in locating their roots in the "other" colonial America—New France. Within its ill-defined borders, along a wide *croissant* of water-front real estate extending from Mobile and New Orleans, up the Mississippi Valley and into and beyond the Illinois Country, the French established numerous military posts and settlements linking the Gulf Coast with the French-Canadian population centers at Quebec and Montreal. And they left plenty of genealogical records—here, in Canada, and in France; many of these records even found their way to Spanish and other European archives.

French colonial sources in the Clayton Library are dispersed almost as much as the settlements of New France; however, once located, these sources are relatively easy to use. Researchers will need to look not only in the

Louisiana section—the largest source of this data—but also in the USA, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Illinois sections, plus the Canadian and French sections. Don't read French? Not to worry. A facility in the French language, although certainly helpful, is not generally required unless one seeks to do in-depth research in primary sources, a few (make that *very* few) of which are available on microfilm in the second-floor microprint area.

Space in this article does not permit the coverage of all French colonial sources, so the scope has been limited to those relating to the Gulf Coast and the lower Mississippi Valley; although, we will touch on a few other areas of passing interest.

For those not familiar with French colonial history in the region, I would strongly suggest taking time to read Marcel Giraud's excellent, multi-volume work, *Histoire de la Louisiane française*. Three of these volumes, entitled *A History of French Louisiana*, are available in English translation, unfortunately, not at Clayton. Check with the main library (CEN 976.3 G522):

Volume 1 (translation by Joseph C. Lambert), *The Reign of Louis XIV, 1698-1715* (Baton Rouge, 1974).

Volume 2 (translation by Brian Pearce), *Years of Transition, 1715-1717* (Baton Rouge, 1993).

Volume 5 (translation by Brian Pearce), *The Company of the Indies, 1723-1731* (Baton Rouge, 1991).

Another excellent source of general information is the three-volume set, *Mississippi Provincial Archives*, compiled, edited, and translated by Dunbar Rowland and Albert Godfrey Sanders (Jackson, Mississippi, 1927-1932), GEN 976.2 M678 MISS. This work can be found in the Mississippi section.

Also of interest—although severely lacking in documentation—are the first three volumes of Charles Ga-

(Continued on next page.)

New France (Continued from previous page.)

yarré's work, *History of Louisiana*. Originally published in 1903, volumes 1 and 2 cover the French period; volume 3, the Spanish. GEN 976.3 G285 LA.

For an excellent history of the founding of the French post at Mobile (and to find quite a few genealogical references), see Jay Higginbotham's *Old Mobile: Fort Louis de la Louisiane, 1702-1711* (Mobile, 1977), GEN 976.1 H635 AL.

If you need general information on the Acadian experience, see Carl A. Brasseaux's excellent work, *The Founding of New Acadia: The Beginnings of Acadian Life in Louisiana, 1765-1803* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1987), GEN 976.3 B823 LA.

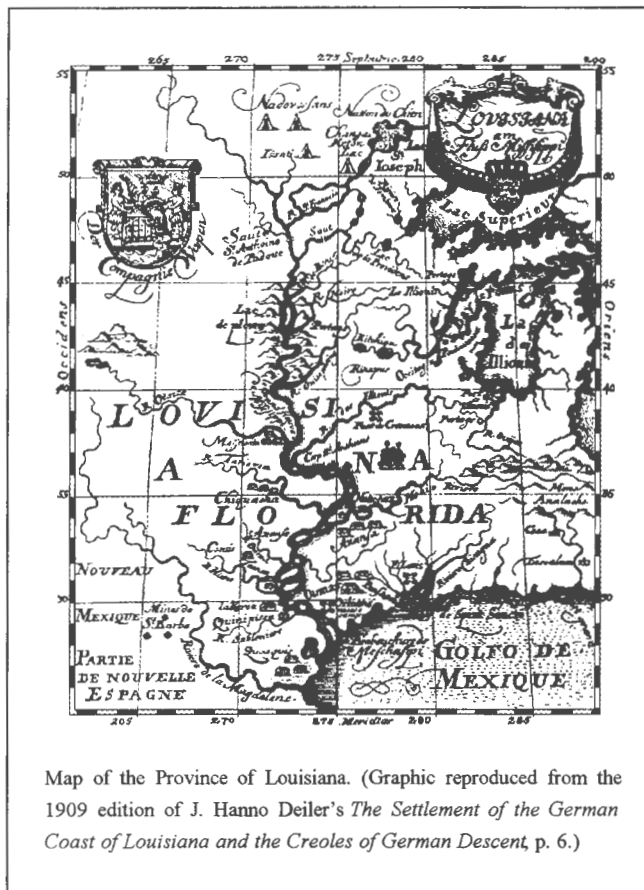
To get an idea as to what kinds of French colonial materials exist (not all of which are available at Clayton), examine one of the many books that address this subject. These include, for example:

John Francis McDermott, ed., *The French in the Mississippi Valley* (Urbana, Illinois, 1965), 973.04944 M134 USA. Included in this text is the chapter, "Manuscript Sources in Louisiana for the History of the French in the Mississippi Valley" by Winston De Ville (pp. 217-232), which gives a compact overview of available manuscript sources (now somewhat outdated, as the locations of some of the described materials have changed).

Henry Putney Beers, *The French in North America: A Bibliographical Guide to French Archives, Reproductions, and Research Missions* (Baton Rouge, 1957), SR 973.04944 B415 USA. This is actually a history of the American and Canadian institutions and individuals involved in the acquisition of originals or reproductions from French archives and manuscript collections.

A much more recent source is Henry Putney Beers' *French and Spanish Records of Louisiana: A Bibliographical Guide to Archives and Manuscript Sources* (Baton Rouge, 1989), GEN 976.3 B415 LA. This text provides not only an overview of available records sources but places these records in their historical context and discusses their handling and organization over the years.

Another useful reference, especially for secondary sources, is the bibliographical listing by Carl A. Brasseaux and Glenn R. Conrad, *A Bibliography of Scholarly Literature on Colonial Louisiana and New France* (Lafayette: University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1992). This book is not available at Clayton.



Map of the Province of Louisiana. (Graphic reproduced from the 1909 edition of J. Hanno Deiler's *The Settlement of the German Coast of Louisiana and the Creoles of German Descent*, p. 6.)

For those of you who are anxious to cut right to the chase, start in the Louisiana section and browse the many colonial Louisiana sources located there. If you have a particular surname in mind, check Robert C. West's *An Atlas of Louisiana Surnames of French and Spanish Origin* (Baton Rouge, 1986), GEN 976.3 W519 LA. Strange as it may seem, this book deals not with genealogy but with historical geography. Its interest to genealogists lies in the fact that it contains background information on 100 colonial Louisiana surnames. A work with similar orientation is Glenn R. Conrad's two-volume set, *A Dictionary of Louisiana Biography* (New Orleans, 1988), GEN 976.3 C754 LA. If you had a prominent French colonial ancestor, check Conrad; you might find some valuable information.

The French were great record keepers, and church, notarial, and census records of New France are numerous. For New Orleans, which was the center of French government in the Province of Louisiana from 1718 to 1767, baptism, marriage, and funeral records for the period have been published in the first two volumes of *Archdiocese of New Orleans Sacramental Records* (New Orleans, 1987 and 1988), GEN 976.3 S123 LA. Although signifi-

(Continued on next page.)

New France (Continued from previous page.)

cant gaps exist, especially for funeral records, researchers will find valuable material in these two volumes, which contain abstracts of sacramental records from the Saint Louis Cathedral in New Orleans and the Saint Charles Borromeo Church on the German Coast (more about the German Coast later). Baptismal records are virtually complete for the Saint Louis Cathedral from 1744 to the end of the colonial period, and marriage records are complete from 1721 to 1733 and from 1759 to 1767. Gaps in the New Orleans church marriage records are filled to some extent by marriage contracts contained in the records of the French Superior Council; these have been abstracted by Alice Daly Forsyth and Ghislaine Pleasonton in *Louisiana Marriage Contracts: A Compilation of Abstracts from Records of the Superior Council of Louisiana During the French Regime, 1725-1758* (New Orleans, 1980), GEN 976.3 F735 LA.

Other significant church records for the French colonial period include those abstracted in *Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Church Records*, volume 1, 1707-1769 (Baton Rouge, 1978), GEN 976.3 C363 LA. Most notable in this volume are the records of the parish of Saint François de Pointe Coupée, established in 1728. Also of interest in this volume is the set of church records carried to Louisiana by the Acadians during the *Grand Dérangement* (the Acadian expulsion from what is now Nova Scotia). This latter set of records is from the parish of Saint Charles-aux-Mines in Acadia and spans the period from 1707 to 1748.

If you are able to trace an ancestor to New Orleans in the early eighteenth century, be sure to follow-up on the possibility that that ancestor came to New Orleans from Mobile, which had been established more than a decade prior to the founding of New Orleans. Many French colonial families appear first in the Mobile area then in New Orleans or its environs. A good place to look is *Love's Legacy: The Mobile Marriages Recorded in French, Transcribed, with Annotated Abstracts in English, 1724-1786* by Jacqueline Olivier Vidrine (Lafayette, 1985), GEN 976.1 V654 ALA. See also the two works by Winston De Ville: *Mobile Funerals, 1726-1764: Alabama Church Records of the French Province of Louisiana* (Ville Platte, Louisiana, 1994), GEN 976.1 D494 ALA; and *Gulf Coast Colonials: A Compendium of French Families in Early Eighteenth Century Louisiana* (Baltimore, 1968), GEN 976.3 D494 LA.

Many French-speaking colonists in the Mississippi Valley and Gulf Coast had their origins in Canada, and we find records of these individuals beginning in Quebec and Montreal, extending down into the Illinois Country, and into Louisiana and the Mississippi-Alabama gulf coast. Indeed, the founders of Mobile, New Orleans, and Natchitoches were all French Canadians. If you think your

Gulf Coast or Mississippi Valley French ancestor had Canadian roots, be sure to check the following references, one in the Louisiana section, two in the Canadian:

Cyprien Tanguay, *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles canadiennes depuis la fondation de la colonie jusqu'à nos jours* [Genealogical dictionary of Canadian families from the founding of the colony up to our day], 2 volumes, originally published in 1871-1890 and reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Company (Baltimore, 1967), GEN 976.3 T164 LA. This work contains genealogical data on not only those inhabitants who remained in Canada but also those who relocated to Louisiana and the Illinois Country. Volume 1 spans the years 1608 to 1700; volume 2, the years 1701 to 1763.

René Jetté, *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec des origines à 1730* (Montreal, 1983), GEN 971.4 J58 CANADA. This volume, like the Tanguay work noted above, draws on early French Canadian parish records and, in many instances, traces individual families back to their seventeenth-century origins in France. This is a "must see" volume for anyone researching early French inhabitants in Louisiana, but you must look for it in the Canadian section.

Edouard-Zotique Massicotte, *Canadian Passports, 1681-1752* (New Orleans, 1975), GEN 971 M417 CANADA. This is actually a reprint of a 1926 publication, to which was added a new introduction and an index. In controlling access (from Canada) to trade with the Indian tribes of New France, the French authorities imposed the requirement for individuals to purchase a *congé de traite* [trade passport] that allowed them to move trade goods to and from the frontier. The progenitors of many Mississippi Valley families can be found in Massicotte's compilation.

As you follow your French Canadian trail down through the Illinois Country, be sure to examine two very important works on the French posts at Kaskaskia and at Fort de Chartres, major centers of the north-south trade along the Mississippi:

Natalia Maree Belting, *Kaskaskia Under the French Regime* (New Orleans, 1975), originally published in 1948 as *Illinois Studies in Social Sciences, Volume XXIX, Number 3*. GEN 977.3 B453 ILL.

(Continued on next page.)

New France (Continued from previous page.)

Margaret Kimball Brown and Lawrie Cena Dean, editors, *The Village of Chartres in Colonial Illinois, 1720-1765* (New Orleans, 1977). GEN 977.3 V713 ILL. This work provides full-text (French and English) transcripts of individual records.

It is not possible to discuss, in-depth, all of the reference material available on the French settlements and military posts in southern New France, but a few are worthy of mention.

For Natchitoches Post:

Winston De Ville, *Marriage Contracts of Natchitoches, 1739-1803* (Nashville, 1961). GEN 976.3 D494 LA.

Winston De Ville, *Natchitoches Documents 1732-1785: A Calendar of Civil Records from Fort St. Jean Baptiste in the French and Spanish Province of Louisiana* (Ville Platte, Louisiana, 1994). GEN 976.3 D494 LA.

Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Natchitoches, 1729-1803: Abstracts of the Catholic Church Registers of the French and Spanish Post of St. Jean Baptiste des Natchitoches in Louisiana* (New Orleans, 1977). GEN 976.3 M657 LA.

Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Natchitoches Colonials: Census, Military Rolls, and Tax Lists, 1722-1803* (Chicago, 1981). GEN 976.3 M657 LA.

For Pointe Coupée Post:

Winston De Ville, *First Settlers of Pointe Coupée: A Study Based on Early Louisiana Church Records, 1737-1750* (New Orleans, 1974). GEN 976.3 D494 LA.

Bill Barron, *Census of Pointe Coupée Louisiana, 1745* (New Orleans, 1978). GEN 976.3 C396 LA. Appendix I of this text (over half the book) contains a useful cross-reference to De Ville's *First Settlers of Pointe Coupée*.

For Opelousas Post:

Winston De Ville, *Opelousas: The History of a French and Spanish Post in America, 1716-1803* (Ville Platte, 1986). GEN 976.3 D494 LA.

For the German Coast:

J. Hanno Deiler, *The Settlement of the German Coast of Louisiana and the Creoles of German Descent* (Baltimore, 1970), originally published in 1909. GEN 976.3 D324 LA. This is an interesting (although poorly documented) analysis of the German colonists who were recruited by Scottish financier John Law to populate his Louisiana concessions. The bulk of these German colonists settled, beginning in 1722, on land just up-river from New Orleans in present-day Saint Charles and Saint John the Baptist parishes. The region, from very early times, was known as the *Côte des Allemands*, and although the description of a river bank as a "coast" is a bit of a stretch, the standard translation has come down to us as "the German Coast." Within a couple of generations, the German colonists who settled this area were completely absorbed into the French culture.

Helmut Blume, *The German Coast During the Colonial Era, 1722-1803*, translated and edited by Ellen C. Merrill (Destrehan, Louisiana, 1990). This is a much more up-to-date book than the one by Deiler and contains excellent source citations. Unfortunately, this book is not currently available at Clayton.

Although a great many records from the French colonial period are to be found in state archives and courthouses in those regions of the U.S. that were once New France, the fact is that a significant amount of material dealing with New France now resides in French archives. Similarly, for Louisiana's Spanish period (1766-1803), many of these records made their way to Spanish archives. Clayton has little or no primary source material (in the form of microfilm) from either location—a considerable weakness in the current collection.

For an idea as to the volume of material available in French archives, find, in the French section of the Library, the four-volume set, *Les archives nationales: état général des fonds* (Paris, Archives Nationales, 1980), GEN 944 A673. This is a high-level calendar of holdings of the French National Archives. In volume III, *Marine et outre-mer*, on pages 316-317, is to be found a listing of the 60 articles that make up the series *Correspondence à l'arrivée: Louisiane*, coded C 13. This consists of correspondence received in France from the French governing officials in the Province of Louisiana. The records span the period from 1678 to 1819 and include correspondence from four governors of the Province of Louisiana (Bienville, La

(Continued on next page.)

New France (Continued from previous page.)

Mothe-Cadillac, Vaudreuil, and Kerlerec) plus those of several *ordonnateurs* (d'Artaguiette, Duclos, Hubert, La Chaise, Salmon, Lenormant de Mézy, and Michel). Back in the Louisiana section of the library, a more complete description of the items in this collection can be found in *General Correspondence of Louisiana: 1678-1763*, edited by Dunbar Rowland (New Orleans, 1976), originally published in 1907 as the *Fifth Annual Report*, Department of Archives and History, State of Mississippi. GEN 976.3 R883 LA.

On page 383 of the volume described above (*Marine et outre-mer*), one finds listed the very important series *Recensements* (census records). Contained within this set is the fascinating collection (coded G 1 464) of passenger lists of ships embarking from France for the Province of Louisiana (1726-1737) and census records (1706-1732) of those individuals already in the Province of Louisiana. Although the source material calendared in the *État général des fonds* is not available at Clayton, one can find, in the Louisiana section, name listings extracted from that material. See especially *The First Families of Louisiana* (Baton Rouge, 1970), GEN 979.3 C754 LA, a two-volume set compiled and edited by Glenn R. Conrad. To avoid considerable frustration in searching the Conrad volumes, use the very excellent index by Donna Rachal Mills, *The First Families of Louisiana: An Index* (Tuscaloosa, 1992), GEN 976.3 C754 LA. See also the lesser work by Neil J. Toups entitled *Mississippi Valley Pioneers* (Lafayette, [1970]), GEN 976.3 T726 LA. Also of use, although poorly edited, is the work by Charles R. Maduell, entitled *The Census Tables for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 through 1732* (Baltimore, 1972).

Even a brief overview of Clayton's holding related to New France must include a few comments on Bill Barron's *The Vaudreuil Papers: A Calendar and Index of the Personal and Private Records of Pierre de Rigaud de Vaudreuil, Royal Governor of the French Province of Louisiana, 1743-1753* (New Orleans, 1975), GEN 976.3 B277 LA. This work provides a doorway into a remarkable collection of papers owned by the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. Clayton does not own microfilms of this collection, but Barron's work provides an excellent description of each document in the collection, and copies of these documents may be ordered from the Huntington Library. Material includes census records (Pointe Coupée, German Coast, Arkansas Post, the Illinois Country), lists of soldiers and officers, inquiries and reports on individuals in the colony, orders to post commandants, and many other fascinating items. Some of the material found in the Vaudreuil Papers has been published. Winston De Ville, a prolific writer on topics related to colonial Louisiana, has brought to print several important items from this

collection, including the following:

"Inhabitants of the German Coast, 8 February 1749," *New Orleans Genesis*, vol. 7, no. 26 (March 1968), pp. 146-149.

"General Report of Troops According to the Seniority of Each Officer, ca. 1750," *Louisiana Genealogical Register*, vol. 15, no. 1 (March 1968), pp. 7-8.

"Louisiana Officers in 1750," *Louisiana Genealogical Register*, vol. 17, no. 4 (December 1970), pp. 314, 321.

"French Soldiers in Louisiana, 1751," *Louisiana Genealogical Register*, vol. 15, no. 3 (September 1968), pp. 85-87.

"Arkansas Post: The Census of 1749," *The Genealogical and Historical Magazine of the South*, vol. 3, no. 3 (August 1986), pp. 34-36.

Space does not permit a detailed description of the many periodicals that address topics related to New France or to the French Province of Louisiana, but I think it is important to mention at least one: *Louisiana Historical Quarterly* (LHQ). Issues of the LHQ, beginning with volume 1 (1917), are bound by volume and shelved in the Louisiana section of the Library. I find these particularly interesting because they contain—spread through many issues—translated abstracts of the proceeding of the French *Conseil Supérieur* [Superior Council] and the Spanish *Cabildo*. Both of these bodies produced large volumes of proceedings documenting judgments that were passed down on all sorts of civil and criminal cases in the Province of Louisiana. If you had an ancestor who was involved in litigation (even minor litigation) within the jurisdiction of the Superior Council (or, after 1769, the *Cabildo*), there is a good chance he or she is mentioned in these abstracts.

Other periodicals to examine include *Louisiana Genealogical Register*, *Louisiana History*, and *New Orleans Genesis*. Also, do not overlook the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, which, from time to time, has published some excellent material of interest to researchers on the posts and settlements of New France.

No doubt, much more could be written about Clayton Library's collection of materials on New France, but I hope this article has described at least the tip of the proverbial iceberg. Left untouched in this article is a mountain of material covering the period of Spanish domination of Louisiana, a fascinating and surprisingly well documented

(Continued on page 13.)

□ Election Notes:



At the November general meeting of the Clayton Library Friends, an election will be held to fill five officer and four director positions. The nominating committee, consisting of Judy Barnett, Vivian Jordan, Gladys Edwards, Stephanie Hebert, and Ron Hamman, has proposed the following candidates for these offices:

President David B. Singleton
 1st VP Patricia Palmer Metcalfe
 2nd VP Jerry M. Betsill
 Secretary Vivian Hill Jordan
 Treasurer.. Forest "Cal" Wolferd, Jr.
 Director Joyce Baskin Carter
 Director M. Ben Gantt
 Director Elois Gibbs
 Director Charles L. Jensen

David Bryan Singleton, nominee for President, is currently serving as CLF Director. David is a partner in the firm of Hartwig, Shepherd, Kennedy & Singleton, L.L.P., and is a Chartered Life Underwriter and a Chartered Financial Consultant. He has been active in numerous civic and professional organizations and is a nationally recognized speaker on motivational issues, sales and marketing ideas, and genealogical topics. For several years, David served on the faculty of the University of Houston, teaching courses on the sales process.

Patricia Palmer Metcalfe, nominee for First Vice President, joined CLF in order to attend one of our

beginners workshops. She has become active in the organization by serving as an assistant editor of the *CLF Newsletter* and helping to prepare the "gift" labels for the more than 1,500 rolls of 1920 Soundex film. She is a member of the Houston Genealogical Forum and is serving as co-librarian of the Forum's portable library of exchange journals and audiotapes. Pat's educational background includes a B.S. in education, an M.S. in textiles, and a C.A.S. in counseling and guidance.

Jerry M. Betsill, nominee for Second Vice President, is currently serving in that position. He is a fifth-generation Texan and has been active in genealogy since 1976. A registered professional engineer, Jerry is now retired from the Exxon Pipeline Company. He holds a B.S. degree from Texas A&M and an M.B.A. degree from the University of Houston. He has been active in a number of civic and professional organizations and is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church.

Vivian Hill Jordan, nominee for Secretary, is a founding member of Clayton Library Friends and has held several positions on the Executive Board, including, in 1993, the post of Second Vice President. She is presently serving as Secretary. Vivian is a former Clayton Library staff member, retiring from the library in 1989 after 12 years of service. She has been active in the Houston Genealogical Forum, the DAR, the Mayflower Society, and other groups.

Forest "Cal" Wolferd, Jr., nominee for Treasurer, is the division manager of financial resources for the Wastewater Operations Division of the Department of Public Works and Engineering, City of Houston. Prior to joining the City of Houston, Cal served in the United States Air Force (accounting and finance). He is a graduate of the University of Maryland and holds a masters degree from Troy State University. He is a member of the Houston Genealogical Forum

and the Tippecanoe County Area Genealogical Society and served as a CLF volunteer and committee member during the 1994 NGS Conference in the States.

Joyce Katherine Baskin Carter, nominee for Director, is a native Texan and a graduate of Del Mar College in Corpus Christi. Active in genealogy for the past ten years, she is currently program director for the Bear Creek Genealogy Association, is a past-president of that group, and is also a member of the Houston Genealogical Forum. (Ms. Carter is nominated as a Second-Term Director to fill the remaining one-year term of outgoing director David Singleton.)

M. Ben Gantt, nominee for Director, is a native of Fort Worth and a graduate of Rice University (accounting and economics). He is retired from the Exxon Corporation. Ben is a past treasurer of the Houston Genealogical Forum and was a volunteer during the 1994 NGS Conference. He is a member of the National Huguenot Society and co-editor of the *Gantt Families in the U.S.* newsletter.

Elois Gibbs, nominee for Director, is the immediate past-president of the African-American Historical Genealogical Society (Houston chapter) and is currently serving as chapter historian. She is a native Texan and a graduate of Texas Southern University, from which she holds a Master of Education degree (guidance and counseling). She has been active in genealogy and family history since 1988 and now publishes the *Bass-Tyler Times*, a family newsletter.

Charles L. Jensen, nominee for Director, is currently serving as an appointed second-term director. During 1996, he served as committee chairman for gifts-in-kind. Mr. Jensen holds a degree in geology from the University of Texas at El Paso and has been employed by Chevron as an exploration geologist and by IBM as a petroleum accounts manager. ■

Membership report

Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks

At the time the newsletter went to press, we had 1,382 Friends! Thank you all for making Clayton Library Friends the largest genealogical group in Texas.

1997 CLF dues renewal notices will be mailed the first part of November. Your \$10 (individual) or \$15 (two people at the same address) payment must be received by March 1, 1997 for your name(s) to be included in the 1997 *Clayton Library Friends Yearbook* (directory). Area codes for many residents in the Houston area will change on November 2nd. When completing the renewal form, please include your *area code* with your phone number(s), even if your number is not going to change. Also, for the first time this year, there will be a block on the renewal form for your Internet e-mail address. There are plans to include e-mail addresses in the yearbook; and, with permission of the

member, an Internet e-mail address listing may be made available through the CLF homepage.

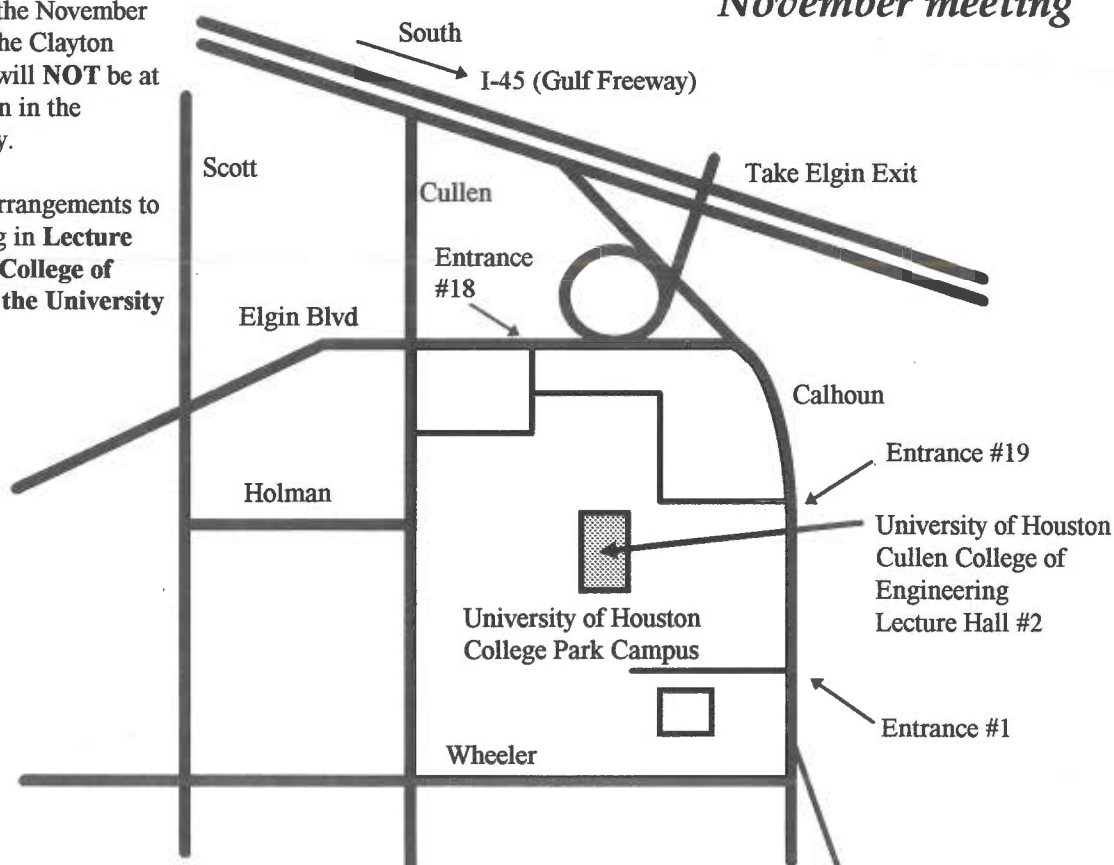
The strength of our membership is very important when we apply for grants and funding in support of Clayton Library, and a large membership says a lot about how serious we are in our commitment to the library. Be sure to take advantage of your CLF membership: quarterly newsletter with scholarly articles on research material at Clayton, beginner and intermediate workshops (free to members), general membership meetings (held four times a year with informative guest speakers), escorted trips at special group rates, and volunteer opportunities.

Please join us in making 1997 another great year for Clayton Library and the Friends! ■

Location changed for November meeting

Please note that the November 16th meeting of the Clayton Library Friends will **NOT** be at our usual location in the Montrose Library.

We have made arrangements to hold this meeting in **Lecture Hall #2, Cullen College of Engineering, at the University of Houston.**



The Southern Claims Commission: A little known source of genealogical information

by Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks

THE Southern Claims Commission was created by Congress in 1870 as a result of pleas from citizens who had sustained losses during the Civil War (1861-1865). This commission addressed claims (for personal property only) from residents of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The Southern Claims Commission appointed local commissioners to hear these

Many southerners did not consider it "lying" to "lie" to a Yankee...

claims, determine the authenticity of the claim, and decide if indeed the claimant had been loyal to the Union during the war. Yes, you read correctly: The claimant had to answer that he/she had been loyal to the Union and had not provided aid of any kind in support of the Confederacy. Before you say, "Not MY southern ancestor!" you should consider that people did what they had to do to receive compensation for losses suffered during the war. Many southerners did not consider it "lying" to "lie" to a Yankee (especially a bureaucrat).

A case in point is that of the Reverend Isaac Madison Hicks, claim #11,760, of Bibb County, Alabama. Rev. Hicks was a Baptist preacher, had been a county tax collector, and had an eldest son, Joseph Newton Hicks, who fought as a member of the 8th Alabama Cavalry for the Confederate cause. This is not the type of person one would expect to file a claim, but the National Archives has 44 pages of sworn testimony of Rev. Hicks and two witnesses. This particular claim gives an account of General James H. Wilson's troop movements in the march to Selma and tells of Union soldiers taking horses, feed, and cooked food from the slave quarters and burning crops but sparing Rev. Hicks's house because he was a Mason. Supporting testimony was given by a witness who says he is Rev. Hicks's son-in-law. Another witness, a former slave, gives an account of seeing one of the stolen horses and saddle "under a Union soldier near Selma." Both whites and

blacks filed claims and gave testimony in support of claims made by others.

There are three types of claims:

Allowed. The U.S. paid the claim, and the only records that survive are the name of the claimant, place of residence, and amount paid.

Barred. Claim was either filed too late or the commissioners ruled the claimant a Confederate supporter. In this case, only the name, place, and description of loss are given.

Disallowed. Claim was not paid, but for reasons other than late filing or the fact that the claimant was a Confederate supporter.

A disallowed claim is the type you hope to find, as it gives the most information for the genealogist and/or historical researcher. Rev. Hicks's claim was this type. You will get the claimant's answers to 80 questions asked by the commissioners as well as the answers given by the claimant's witnesses. Both claimant and witnesses were asked, "What is your name, your age, your residence and how long has it been such, and what is your occupation? If you are not the claimant, in what manner, if any, are you related to the claimant or interested in the success of the claim?" A few other examples of questions asked were "Where were you born? If not born in the United States, when and where were you naturalized? Produce your naturalization papers, if you can. Did you have any near relatives in the Confederate army or in any military or naval service hostile to the U.S.? If so, give names, ages on entering service, present residence, if living, what influence you exerted, if any, against their entering the service, and in what way you contributed to their outfit and support." For female claimants, "Are you married or single? If married, when were you married? Where does your husband reside, and why is he not joined with you in this petition? How many children have you? Give their names

(Continued on next page.)

Claims Commission (Continued from previous page.)

and ages....” Witnesses were asked, “In whose favor are you here to testify? How long have you known that person altogether, and what part of that time have you intimately known him? Did you live near him during the war, and how far away? What was the public reputation of the claimant for loyalty or disloyalty to the U.S. during the war? If you profess to know his public reputation, explain fully how you know it, whom you heard speak of it, and give the names of other persons who were neighbors during the war that could testify to his public reputation.” I think you get the idea of how these claims can provide very helpful and interesting information.

How do you determine if your ancestor had a claim and how do you get it? There are three finding aides to these claims at Clayton. The first is an index (on microfilm) from the National Archives titled *Consolidated Index of Claims Reported by the Commissioner of Claims Southern Claims Commission 1871-1880* (cabinet 48, drawer 8). The second and third are books by Dr. Gary B. Mills: *Civil War Claims in the South, An Index of Civil War Damage Claims Filed Before the Southern Claims Commission, 1871-1880* (GEN 973.7 M657 USA) and *Southern Loyalists in the Civil War* (GEN 973.7 M657 USA). All these indexes give the name of the claimant, the claim number, and state. The first book also gives the claimant's county of residence. Once you find your ancestor's name and claim number, write to the General Reference Branch, National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20408. Be sure to specify that this is a Southern Claims Commission claim, give the name of the claimant, the state, and the claim number.

Send no money. The National Archives will reply with the number of pages and the cost for obtaining the claim file. You have 30 days to send for the claim before it is re-filed.

If you do not find your ancestor listed, try this technique: Go to the 1860, 1870, or 1880 federal censuses, write down the names of your ancestor's neighbors (head of households) 5 to 10 households before your ancestor on the census and the same number of households following. Then see if any of these neighbors had claims and send for them. There is a very good chance your ancestor was one of the witnesses for the neighbor.

These claims are a good source of genealogical and historical information for ancestors in the “burned counties,” and if a claimant died during the claim process, often the heir(s) took up the claim. The heir(s) would then have to prove their relationship to the deceased claimant using Bible records, depositions, etc., all of which may hold valuable genealogical information.

In some cases, the claim was sent to the U.S. Court of Claims. If this happened with your ancestor's claim, the National Archives will notify you of this and will send you a new case number to use to pursue the claim from the U.S. Court of Claims (Index Section, 717 Madison Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20005). All this may sound complicated, but all you have to do is send in the initial request and follow the instructions. The last claim I requested took about three months, including the time taken for the National Archives to locate the claim, the time taken to notify me of the cost—they accept credit cards—and the time taken to respond to my order for the claim. But believe me: It is worth the effort! ■

Be an “Angel”

Individuals are needed to underwrite subscriptions to the periodicals listed below. Annual subscription fees (if known) are noted next to the titles. If you would like to support the Angels program by funding a renewal or new subscription, please contact Liz Hicks, 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030. (713) 944-1118.

Tap Roots (Alabama), \$15
Alabama Genealogical Society
Magazine, \$20
Central Alabama Genealogical
Society Bi-annual, \$15

*Anchorage Genealogical Society
Quarterly* (Alaska)
*Central Georgia Genealogical Society
Quarterly*, \$20
*Georgia Genealogical Society
Quarterly*, \$18
*Topeka Genealogical Society
Quarterly* (Kansas), \$15
Le Raconteur, a publication of Le
Comité des Archives de la
Louisiane, \$12
*Northeast Mississippi Historical and
Genealogical Quarterly*, \$15
Lifelines, a publication of the
Northern New York American-
Canadian Genealogical Society,
\$20 (as of 1995)
Seneca Searchers (Ohio), \$10

*The Middle Tennessee Journal of
Genealogy & History*, \$18
*Genealogical Society of Vermont
Quarterly*, \$20
*Kanawha Valley Genealogical Society
Journal* (West Virginia), \$12
Annals of Wyoming, \$10
Immigration Digest, \$7 (as of 1990)
*Journal of the Polish Genealogical
Society of America*
*Journal of American Indian Family
Research*, \$25 (as of 1995)
Family Tree Magazine (British Isles),
\$39
Rowan County Register (North
Carolina), \$25

[illegible]

□ BEGINNERS COLUMN

Vertical files? What in the world are vertical files? Are there horizontal files, too?

by Charlene Wilson and Susan McConnell

The vertical file is a collection of loose papers donated by library patrons. It is not, however, an archival collection. In fact, archival material—original documents, photographs, maps, etc.—is not maintained at Clayton.

Important in genealogical research because of the wealth of information it provides, the vertical file is often an overlooked source. The vertical file in the main building is on the first floor along the south wall. It is divided into four categories:

The USA section is in alphabetical order by subject and includes items on ethnic research methodology, migration trails, land records, and other non-state-specific subjects. You will also find information about the Internet in this section.

The State section is in alphabetical order by state and then by county or subject. Included are newspaper clippings, marriage records, and cemetery information, plus pamphlets on state and county archives and libraries.

The Foreign section is arranged alphabetically by

country. Canada, England, France, Germany, and Russia are just a few of the countries represented here.

The Society section has information, in alphabetical order, on many of the hereditary and patriotic organizations.

A second vertical file, dedicated to family information, is maintained in the Clayton House on either side of the porch area. These files are arranged alphabetically by the major family and offer a wide assortment of wonderful information such as Bible records, lineage charts, genealogical correspondence, etc.

Notebooks listing the content of the vertical files are located on top of the filing cabinets in both the main building and the Clayton House. The vertical file is a treasure-trove of information. Material is added constantly, so it is well worth the researcher's time to look through these files on a regular basis. Don't pass up the vertical file when doing genealogical research!

President's Column *(Continued from page 2.)*

would continue for several pages and would include things such as the Mississippi tax lists, the Alabama tract books, and the Leonardo Andrea collection of South Carolina genealogies.

Yes, we can be proud of the legacy we have to pass on. But, remember what I said in my first message to you: We can never stop and rest on our laurels. We must strive always to work alongside the Houston Public Library to keep Clayton Library the best in the state of Texas and to move it into national prominence alongside the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Let us set as our goal that, when anyone in

the country mentions genealogical libraries, Clayton Library will immediately come to mind. This is not beyond our reach; those who know about Clayton Library are already at that point.

These last two years have been very happy ones for me to serve as your president. I owe thanks to many people who have helped with different tasks by serving on committees, leading projects, working behind the scenes, and contributing time, materials, and funds. Above all, I am very proud to be a part of our great organization, Clayton Library Friends.

John Dorroh

New France

(Continued from page 8.)

area in which to conduct genealogical research.

If you have a family branch that extends into the "other" American colony, the Clayton Library can offer some very exciting research opportunities. ■



Have you been SWEM-ming lately?

by Emily Croom



EVERYONE who works on Virginia genealogy or history, especially in the colonial and early national periods, should use the Swem Index. This is the familiar name for the extensive *Virginia Historical Index*, by Earl Gregg Swem, long-time librarian of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg. This monumental two-volume work was originally published in 1934 and was reprinted in 1965 by Peter Smith of Magnolia, Massachusetts. Although Swem was employed by the college, the index was not a publication of the college or any other institution or society. It was the brainchild of a group of members of the Virginia Historical Society but was paid for with private contributions.

The index offers comprehensive coverage of eight important Virginia publications. Entries refer searchers to the pertinent publication, volume and page number with a code, such as 7V45. The first number is the volume; the second is the beginning page number of the referenced material. The letter refers to the publication:

- *V* refers to the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, established in 1893 as the official publication of the Virginia Historical Society and covering every phase of Virginia colonial life. The index covers volumes 1-38 (1893-1930). Clayton Library has them all, but volume 17 (1908) contains only issues 1 and 2. These volumes and the next five titles, which are also periodicals, are located at Clayton in the Virginia section under the new call number GEN PER VA.
- *W(1)* stands for the first series (volumes 1-27, 1892-1919) of the *William and Mary Quarterly*, established as the private undertaking of Dr. L. G. Tyler, then President of the college. Clayton Library has this series, which concentrates on public records of the Virginia Tidewater and the college. When Dr. Tyler retired in 1919, he continued his efforts under the name *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*.
- *T* is the code for *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*. The index covers volumes 1-10 (1919-1929); Clayton Library has volumes 1-33.
- *W(2)* stands for the second series (volumes 1-10,

1921-1930) of the *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*. After Dr. Tyler retired, the new college president established the second series as an official college publication with the same emphasis on Virginia Tidewater and the college. Clayton Library has all of the second series volumes (1921-1943) and many of the third series, which are not included in the index.

- *R* refers to the *Virginia Historical Register and Literary Advertiser*, the first official publication of the Virginia Historical Society, 1848-1853. The six volumes contain valuable letters and narratives of early Virginia. Clayton Library has all six volumes.

- *N* is the code for the *Lower Norfolk County Virginia Antiquary*, volumes 1-5 (1895-1906). Privately published, this set contains early records of the area, including two counties formed from the original—Princess Anne and Norfolk. Clayton Library has all five volumes.

- *H* stands for *Hening's Statutes at Large, 1619-1792*, volumes 1-13. Hening compiled and edited nearly two hundred years of session laws of the colony and the commonwealth, many of which had been preserved by Thomas Jefferson. Clayton Library has these volumes, under call number 975.5 V817 VA.

- *C* refers to the *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*, volumes 1-11 (1652-1869), manuscripts now in the Library of Virginia. These include letters and orders of governors; reports from state, colonial, and local officials; and miscellaneous papers. Clayton Library has this set, under call number 975.5 V817 VA.

Clayton Library and several university libraries in the Houston area own the index. At Clayton, it is on the first floor in the Virginia section under the call number 975.5 S974 VA. In libraries using the Library of Congress cataloguing system, the call number is F221. Volume I lists topics alphabetically A to K; volume II, L to Z.

Index entries span over three hundred years of life in Virginia, but the majority relate to the colonial period. In fact, the eight publications were chosen for the index because of their emphasis on the colonial period. Swem

(Continued on next page.)

Swem Index (Continued from previous page.)

believed that the later history of Virginia could be properly understood only if the colonial period was better known, more thoroughly studied, and wisely interpreted. Contrary to some contemporary opinions, the editor also believed that modern study of the colonial period was far from exhausted and, in reality, had just begun. Continuing discoveries and new interpretations at Colonial Williamsburg affirm Swem's conviction. When it was new, the index was an inventory of what had been published on colonial Virginia and was an effort to give researchers greater access to the information in these sources. In this context, genealogists are important factors in the study of the colonial era, in determining not only the identity and makeup of the families but also the way those ancestors fit into the society and events that surrounded them.

Entries include family and individual names, business and place names, historical and life events, headings for institutions and groups of people, and a myriad of cultural and historical topics. Surnames are spelled as they are in the original source, but cross-references to alternate spellings are sometimes given. Under each surname is listed each given name with its individual reference, as in *Howat, James, 5N66*. Sometimes the subheading *family* appears, as in *Garner, family, 10V224*. Often this kind of reference is to the family in general and not a listing of individual family members. On the other hand, named individuals can appear in the sources in many contexts: among siblings in a Bible record, on a tax or census list, on a military or college roster, as subject of a court case or letter, as a practitioner of a particular craft or occupation, in a marriage or land record, or in a family or local history narrative.

No entry exists for Virginia as a place name since the entire work concentrates on Virginia. However, headings are included for Virginia and West Virginia counties and towns and for other state and colonies, such as Kentucky, Georgia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, and some of their counties and towns. One example is *Georgia, Flournoy family in, 3V70*. Entries for counties and towns give a good overview of coverage and may cross-reference other subjects that we would not have thought to look for. For example, the Augusta County entry lists many surnames and such other topics as *Quakers in, 6W(2)39; settlers go to, for protection, 2V104; and tithables, 1773, 28V81*. Listings such as the first two may or may not yield information on specific ancestral families, but references such as *tithables, 1773* often guide the searcher to a list of eligible taxpayers and therefore are a valuable source for locating people in a given place and time.

Events, activities, occupations, and groups of people form a sizable portion of the index entries. The hundreds of topics range from marriages, divorce, courts, census,

education, journals, racing, ferries, fords, taxes, and warehouses to ministers, clergy, health officers, Indians, and free Negroes. Subheadings may send readers to general information on each topic or to specific individuals engaged in the activity. Two important headings of this kind for genealogists are *Bible Records* and *Bibles*, which identify families whose Bible records are published in the source periodicals.

Examples of institutional entries are *schools, colleges, academies, jails, and churches*. The heading for churches lists many individual congregations as well as related subtopics, including *finer for non-attendance*. Hundreds of entries relate to cultural items, which are often very specific and can provide valuable information on how or why things were made or done in daily and business life. Some of the indexed subjects are building materials, bricks, drinks, cloth, clothing, furniture, tools, utensils, houses, saddlebags, bridles, ink powder, and inkstands. Under the heading *Horses*, for example, are a number of subheadings, including *Phillips family; price of, 1700; and hair of, for wig making*.

Who could not spend hours browsing through such an index and wishing for time to read and study the many subjects that sound intriguing? After all, the successful genealogist is also an historian, delving into all kinds of subjects that affected the lives of ancestors. In this process, we sometimes forget to use periodicals. The Swem Index helps correct this oversight by whetting our intellectual appetites and by giving us easy access to valuable information. Clayton Library takes away our excuses by providing all the materials. ■

Emily Croom is a member of Clayton Library Friends and author of *Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy*, *The Genealogist's Companion & Sourcebook*, and the new book, now available, *The Unpuzzling Your Past Workbook: Essential Forms and Letters for All Genealogists*.

Make your plans now for Salt Lake City

The next research trip to the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, Utah will be January 15-22, 1997. Dr. Art Allee tells us that hotel accommodations will be at the Howard Johnson's next door to the library. Airfare will be about \$300, and senior discounts are available at the hotel. (Airfare costs are subject to change until tickets are issued, but the travel agent is always very diligently in looking for the lowest rates.) For more information and/or reservations, contact Art at (713) 748-3473 or write him in care of the Clayton Library Friends.

□ WHAT'S (BEING WIRED) IN THE LIBRARY***Phase 2, Houston Public Library network upgrade:******What does it mean for the Clayton Library?***

**Toni Lambert, Chief of Automation
Houston Public Library**

The first phase of our network upgrade provided all HPL locations (including Clayton Library) with on-line, text-based access to the Internet. There are a number of genealogical sites on the Internet, so it was important to provide this access at Clayton. The Clayton Library Friends home page is mounted on the Houston Public Library's web site. This page offers substantive genealogical information including finding aids for many Clayton collections. Clayton is already one of the top genealogical libraries in the country, but the Automation Department of the Houston Public Library is determined to do even more to enhance the quality of service.

The second phase of the network upgrade will replace the Lynx (text-based) access to the Internet with graphical

access using a browser such as Netscape Navigator™. This will provide simple "point and click" access to these information resources. We will also add the ability to download and print information from the Internet. The funding required to upgrade the central computer room to permit this level of access will be provided through an Internet Assistance Grant from the Texas State Library, but this grant is not sufficient to purchase the new data communications equipment required in each of our libraries. Also, we have not yet identified the additional funding—approximately \$7,000—to complete the network upgrade at Clayton. We are investigating methods of extending the on-line public access catalog to the Clayton Home, and we hope to have a solution in the near future. ■

**CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS
Post Office Box 271078
Houston, TX 77277-1078**

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Houston, Texas Permit No. 1747
--

OCT 22 1996