



THE CLF NEWSLETTER

Vol. XII

November 1998

No. 4



NEXT MEETING

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Saturday, Nov 14th, 10:15 a.m.
Concourse Meeting Room
Houston Public Library (Central)
500 McKinney Avenue, Houston
(Opposite City Hall)

SPEAKER

Trevia Wooster Beverly

TOPIC

Preparing for Foreign Research

Mrs. Beverly is a professional genealogist and genealogical lecturer and is publisher of the Texas quarterly, *The Tejas Gazette*. She is a charter member of Clayton Library Friends.



President's Message

How time flies! October 31st will mark the 10th anniversary of the opening of the "new" Clayton Library building. And how we have grown during those ten years!

I am happy to report that the Government Documents Seminar was a big success; however, registrations far exceeded the room capacity, and we were able to accommodate only a small number of people from the standby list. There was no separate advertising for this seminar, just the announcement in the newsletter, and we were pleased at the number of people seeking to register. Planning

for the December seminar, which will be on "Using Clayton Library," has already begun, so if you want to attend, please register early.

Thanks to donations from a number of CLF members, new material is being added regularly to Clayton Library's collection. If you have a particular state, county, or subject area that you would like to support, please let us know. If you want to contribute funds for book purchases, please contact John Dorroh (713) 781-2741; for journals and periodicals, contact Liz Hicks (713) 944-1118.

The Ways-and-Means committee is heavily involved in writing grant requests. If you are, or personally know, a trustee or director of an organization that grants funds, please contact Martha Burg, our committee chairman, at (713) 729-7986.

Trained volunteers are always needed to help with shelving or other in-library tasks. If you would like to be trained and serve as a volunteer in this area, please contact Kipp Ferns at (281) 778-7500. He particularly needs individuals to volunteer for Saturday shelving.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the slate of officers that the nominating committee proposes. It looks like a nice blend of familiar names and some "new blood" for the board and should give us both continuity and new ideas and perspectives.

See you all at the November 14th meeting!

Pat Metcalfe
CLF President

Seminar planned for December 12th

Focus will be on using Clayton Library resources

Clayton Library Friends and the Houston Public Library will sponsor a seminar on Saturday, December 12th that will focus on how to use Clayton Library's resources in your genealogical research. This seminar will also include instructions on how to use Clayton Library's electronic catalog system and how to access genealogical data on the Internet, topics that have been very popular with seminar attendees in the past. Presenters will be Clayton Library manager Marje Harris and assistant manager Margaret Tufts. The seminar will be held in the Concourse Room of the main library. A registration form for this event is included in this newsletter, and we would encourage you to register early. For further information, contact Pat Metcalfe, (713) 721-3936. ■

Research trip to Salt Lake City slated

Dr. Art Allee has announced plans for the January 13-20 trip to Salt Lake City. The trip will include accommodations at the Park Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake and a full week of research opportunities at the Family History Library. Price of the ground

(Continued on page 5)

CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

P. O. Box 271078

Houston, Texas 77277-1078

Established 1987

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

OFFICERS

Patricia Palmer Metcalfe ..President
 Martha Anderson Burg1st VP
 Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks2nd VP
 Joyce Baskin PetersonSecretary
 Forrest "Cal" Wolford, Jr.Treasurer

FIRST TERM DIRECTORS

Phyllis Gough Huffington

J. Albert Pruett, Jr.

C. Kipp Ferns

SECOND TERM DIRECTORS

M. Ben Gantt

L. Gibbs

John Dorroh

CLF NEWSLETTER STAFF

Donald E. Pusch, editor

Pat Metcalfe and John Dorroh,
 assistant editors

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

Clayton Library Friends Financial Report

July 1 through September 30, 1998

CHECKING ACCOUNT—Wells Fargo Bank	
Starting Balance	\$ 28,815
Unrestricted Funds.....	3,359
Restricted Funds:	
Binding.....	264
Endowment.....	- 0 -
Other.....	1,317
CLF Operating Funds.....	22,345
1999 Prepaid Dues	530
Deposits, total	4,016
Unrestricted Funds.....	791
Restricted Funds:	
Binding.....	766
Endowment.....	- 0 -
Other.....	1,564
CLF Operating Funds.....	875
1999 Prepaid Dues.....	20
Withdrawals, total	7,534
Unrestricted Funds.....	664
Restricted Funds:	
Binding.....	197
Endowment.....	- 0 -
Other.....	1,118
CLF Operating Funds*.....	5,555
Ending Balance.....	25,297
Unrestricted Funds.....	3,486
Restricted Funds:	
Binding.....	834
Endowment.....	- 0 -
Other.....	2,763
CLF Operating Funds.....	17,665
1999 Prepaid Dues.....	550
ENDOWMENT FUND—Univ. Bank	
Certificate of deposit #1	15,443
Savings account.....	12,540
.....	2,903

* Note: \$650 transferred from Operating Funds to Binding on
 7/1/98 per Executive Board direction on 6/8/98.

Cal Wolford, Treasurer

Minnesota Vital Records Indexes

Thanks to donations from Pat Metcalfe and from Jim and Madeline Younglove, Clayton Library now has the following Minnesota vital records indexes on hand:

Marriages:

Grooms, 1958-1993, 107 fiche
 Brides, 1958-1993, 106 fiche
 Grooms, 1990-1995, 14 fiche
 Brides, 1990-1995, 15 fiche

Divorces: 1970-1995, 31 fiche

Deaths:

1944-1953, 29 fiche
 1962-1989, 46 fiche
 1990-1995, 9 fiche

Pat Metcalfe's donation is in memory of her great-grandfathers, Mr. C. D. Douglass and Mr. John Rowley. Jim and Madeline Younglove's donation was made in honor of Mrs. Thelma Younglove Butler. ■

The Holbrook Collection on Microform: Massachusetts Vital Records and More

by Karen Stein Daniel, CG

THE New England Historic Genealogical Society likes to advertise that "there's a little New England in all of us." If that should prove to be so, then those of us who use the holdings of the Clayton Library for Genealogical Research as one of our primary research repositories are fortunate to have at our fingertips the *Massachusetts Vital Records* microfiche collection, known also as the *Holbrook Collection*.

This massive, ongoing, multi-year project is the brainchild of DeLene and Jay Holbrook of Archive Publishing Company in Oxford, Massachusetts, a division of **Holbrook Research Institute**. The collection already numbers nearly 100,000 microfiche. Since 1620, Massachusetts towns and cities have kept records of births, deaths, and marriages. The original vital records are held in vaults throughout the state. Although their use is essential to genealogists and family historians, the years have taken a toll on many of the old records, whether by mildew, mice, fragile pages, or brittle bindings. Realizing a need for preservation, the Holbrooks began putting the vital records of the state's 351 cities and towns on microfiche in 1982.

There had been earlier attempts in this century to publish Massachusetts vital records from the towns, but these projects were incomplete. An additional problem was that some of the data did not come directly from the town records and typographical errors were made in abstracting. The Holbrooks also discovered records that weren't available or simply were not used in the original series. The Holbrooks' project initially focused only on births, marriages, and deaths, but has since expanded to include all types of documents that place a person in a town at a particular time. Their process has been to arrange to borrow the town documents for filming, and—in return for the copyright on reproductions—they provide a free set of the fiche to the town. The Holbrooks contract the work of filming the documents, then provide the fiche to libraries and individuals across the nation, including Clayton Library.

Their work has been complimented nationally. A Library of Congress staffer stated that "Massachusetts is unique in that it has published its early vital records.... Nothing [else] reminds me of this project."

A staff member from the San Francisco Sutro Library has called the Holbrook Collection more complete and updated than earlier publications, stating that "Massachusetts is unique in that it kept town records. People in the Old South kept family Bibles. Other places just didn't keep those kinds of records with any...regularity until after 1900.... Estimating things like typical ages of childbearing women or the mortality rate during the 17th and 18th centuries is possible in Massachusetts, as in few other places, because of the existence and accessibility of vital records."

Traditionally, in order to use the original town or city records, one must personally visit and view the material or write to the clerk to request copies. A main problem with this method is that many older records cannot be photocopied due to their fragile condition. A practical alternative is to use the *Holbrook Collection* on microfiche. The collection consists of microfiche copies of the original records from almost every town and city in the state. Depending upon the dates and events filmed, most towns cover several fiche. A large city like Boston can include hundreds of fiche. The original records are **exactly as recorded—not abstracts**. In addition to United States citizens, many Canadians and Europeans are identified who came to Massachusetts to work in the mills.

An additional value of the collection is that the original records present more than vital records and include such things as lists of property owners, church members, political candidates, tax payers, paupers, militia, dog owners, voters, Civil War veterans, and cemetery records. This writer noted an interesting collection entitled "**Deaths of Women, 1700-1900**" for the town of Dighton in Bristol County, with a separate cross-reference to these women's maiden names. The original records help also to characterize residents through their activities in town affairs, inventories of their belongings, earmarks designed for animals, religious dissent, objections to proposed marriages, and signatures on voting registers. Records before 1844 sometimes appear chronologically and sometimes by family. This family grouping arrangement is especially useful as it becomes harder to establish families prior to

the 1850 federal census listing of every name. An example would be the "Yarmouth Births, Marriages, Deaths by Families 1665-1860." The original records as filmed by the Holbrooks allow access to rare books locked away in more than 350 locations throughout Massachusetts.

How does a researcher begin to access this vast collection at Clayton Library? The following are suggested steps in order to make the best use of the collection:

- Study the 24-page *Guide to Microfiche Indexes of Massachusetts: Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1841-1895* by Jay M. Holbrook, published in 1989, call number 974.4 H724.
- Study the red binder in the second floor microprint area marked *Microprint Finding Aids - Massachusetts*. The arrangement within the binder will be by county and then town and will give the library's holdings from the collection for a specific locale. A typical heading from the binder for the *Holbrook Collection* would appear as the following example:

Middlesex
Town
Vital Rec.
Sherborn
Fiche
C69 D05

alongside of which will be a brief description of the *Holbrook Collection* for the town of Sherborn, Middlesex County. The designation "C69 D05" refers to the cabinet and drawer location within the microprint area.

- The *Holbrook Collection* is currently housed in cabinet 68, drawers 8 and 10, and in cabinet 69, drawers 1, 3, 5, and 7. Every other drawer is currently empty in order to have room to accommodate expansion of this collection. A researcher should become familiar with the alphabetical arrangement of towns within the drawers. Immediately following the divider announcing the name of the town, there follows a tan card that gives information as to the exact content and dates of materials for that town, followed by the fiche numbers for each specific item. An abstracted

example from one such card for the town of Sandwich is as follows:

MASSACHUSETTS VITAL RECORDS

SANDWICH 1651-1890

Births, Marriages & Deaths	1651-1691	Fiches 1-3
	1671-1815	Fiches 4-7
Index to Births & Deaths	1803-1842	Fiche 15
Intentions	1783-1813	Fiche 19
Births, Marriages, & Deaths	1843-1890	Fiches 22-30

- If you expect to spend a great deal of time in Massachusetts or other New England research, consider purchasing the *Bibliography of Massachusetts Vital Records, 1620-1905*, a two-microfiche inventory of the original volumes of births, marriages, and deaths. This writer has the 6th edition, published in 1996. This is an excellent description of all materials available in the collection up to that time, arranged by town. This item can be purchased from Archive Publishing for \$2.00.
- Finally, for general information about the records in any town, and for new and upcoming titles added to the collection, check the Archive Publishing website at <www.archivepublishing.com>.

What kinds of information and arrangement can we expect to see when we have finally placed a microfiche on the reader? The following examples are taken from the Sandwich town records:

- Fiche 1 - Sandwich General Records 1651-1691: Births, Marriages & Deaths. Vol. 1. 255 pages (Records are a mixture of town minutes, vital records, and earmarks.) The first fiche for each town provides a general description of the records as a whole.
- Fiche 22 - Sandwich Births, Marriages, Deaths 1843-1900, 315 pages.

Births	1843-1868	[pages] 1-79
Births	1868-1890	[pages] 1-34
Marriages	1844-1890	[pages] 1-92
Deaths	1845-1890	[pages] 1-80

- Page 1, no. 1, and page 15, no. 93, Births:
[See table]

Name	Sex	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Name of Parents	Occupation of Father	Residence of Parents
Ada James Wing	Female	Sept. 13, 1843	Sandwich	Paul & Laura Ann Wing	School Teacher	Sandwich
Harriet J. A. Johnson	Female	April 9, 1848	Sandwich	John & Eliza A. Johnson	Glass Cutter	Sandwich

• Fiche 29 - Page 39, no. 77, Deaths:

When Registered	Name and Surname	Sex and Condition	Age	Date of Death	Disease or Cause of Death	Place of Birth	Name and Surname of Parents	If married female, then name of husband
Jan. 1863	Mary Stern	Female, Widow	63 yrs. 5 mos.	Nov. 27, 1862	Unknown	Salem		Widow of George Stern

- Page 46, no. 37, Deaths:

Date of Death	Name of Deceased	Sex	Condition	Age	Disease or Cause of Death	Residence	Occupation	Place Of Death	Name and Birthplace of Father	Name and Birthplace of Mother
May 9, 1866	Joseph Parkinson	M	Married	66 yrs.	Pulmonary Disease	Sandwich	Physician	Sandwich	Henry, Lincolnshire, Eng.	Susannah, Yorkshire, Eng.

• Fiche 26 - Pages 50 and 51, Marriages:

No.	Date of Marriage	Name and Surname of Groom and Bride	Residence of each at time of Marriage	Age of each in Years	Occupation of Groom	Place of birth of Each	Names of Parents	What Marriage	Name and Official Station of Person by Whom Married	Date of Registry
1	Jany. 21, 1867	Lafayette Gibbs	W. Sandwich	29	Laborer	Sandwich	Pelham & Mary	1st Mar.	Rev. J. B. Husted	Jany. 2, 1867
		Elizabeth J. Benson	W. Sandwich	22		Sandwich	William & Lydia	1st Mar.		
22	June 9, 1867	Hugh Kelley	Falmouth	24	Laborer	Ireland	John & Bridget	1st Mar.	Rev. Peter Bertoldi	July 2d, 1867
		Sarah Donahue	E. Dennis	21		Ireland	Lawrence & Mary	1st Mar.		

Even for the experienced genealogist, the *Holbrook Collection* does not fail to impress. The wealth and diversity of materials within the collection holds the possibility of reward for the researcher who will learn to use it to its full potential. It presents a rare opportunity to establish early vital record information for some of our ancestors in a time period where vital record information is not the norm. The fact that the collection is an ongoing endeavor should beckon us to use it again and again as we seek to uncover that "little bit of New England" within each of us.

Bibliography:

- Cope, J. Samuel. "Duo works to save vital records." *Sunday Telegram*, (March 18, 1990).
 ———. "Keeping documents safe helps libraries." *Sunday Telegram*, (March 18, 1990).

(Note: The author wishes to thank Jay Holbrook for providing background materials for the added understanding of the *Holbrook Collection*.)

(Continued from page 1)

portion of the tour will be \$415 per person, double occupancy, or \$650 per person, single. Airfare (to/from Houston) is still being negotiated but will be approximately \$310 per person. The ground package will include hotel accommodations, baggage handling, transfers to and from the Salt Lake

City airport, and a Saturday evening dinner party. An optional trip to the Sundance Resort is planned for Sunday, January 17th. This will include brunch and a sleigh ride at the Homestead. Cost will be \$45 per person.

The Salt Lake City trip is being arranged by 1st Choice Travel, Pleasant Grove, Utah. However, to register, please contact the trip coordinator, Dr. Art Allee, to obtain a registration form. Dr. Allee can be reached at (713) 748-3473 or by mail at 5763 Belvedere, Houston, TX 77021-3201.

A trip to the Washington, DC area is also being planned—at cherry blossom time! Details will be published in the next newsletter. ■

A report from the CLF Nominating Committee

The CLF nominating committee proposes the following individuals as candidates for the offices indicated. At the November meeting of the Clayton Library Friends, these candidates—and any others nominated from the floor—will be voted on by the membership. Note that, in this election, there are five director positions to be filled. In addition to the usual three first-term directors, Suzanne Sandlin Gay is nominated to complete the second year of Judge Pruett's unexpired term, and Kip Ferns, who is currently serving as an appointed first-term director, is nominated to fill the remaining year of the two-year term.

President Patricia Palmer Metcalfe
1st VP Martha Anderson Burg
2nd VP J. Albert Pruett, Jr.
Secretary Joyce Baskin Peterson
Treasurer Elois Gibbs
Director Suzanne Sandlin Gay
Director Kim Allen Morton
Director... Gayle Sandstedt Workman
Director John Dorroh
Director C. Kipp Ferns

The Candidates

Patricia Palmer Metcalfe, nominee for president, is currently serving as CLF president and is an assistant editor of *The CLF Newsletter*. As a member of the Houston Genealogical Forum, Pat is currently serving as co-librarian of that organization's portable library of exchange journals and audio tapes and as editor of the Forum's newsletter. She also finds time to work as a genealogy merit badge counselor for the Boy Scouts. Her educational background includes a degree in education and advanced

degrees in textiles research and counseling and guidance.

Martha Anderson Burg, nominee for first vice president, is a fifth-generation Texan and has been active in genealogy for the past 15 years. She became interested in family research by helping her son to become an Eagle Scout with the genealogy merit badge, and her interest grew from there. She has been active in Clayton Library Friends and in the Houston Genealogical Forum for the past several years and served as registration chairman with the Forum in 1997. Born in Orange, Texas, Ms. Burg has been a real estate broker in Houston since 1979.

J. Albert Pruett, Jr., nominee for second vice president, is a native Houstonian and a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. He holds B.A. and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees and has served, since 1985, as a state district judge, as well as a mediator and arbitrator. He held the post of parliamentarian for three years and is currently serving as a CLF director. He is a member of the NGS, the Houston Genealogical Forum, the Harris County Genealogical Society, and the Alabama Genealogical Society.

Joyce Baskin Peterson, nominee for secretary, is currently serving in that office and is a former CLF director. She is a native Texan and a graduate of Del Mar College in Corpus Christi. She is a past president and program director for the Bear Creek Genealogy Association and is a member of the Houston Genealogical Forum. For the past year, she has headed the CLF Program Committee.

Elois Gibbs, nominee for treasurer, is currently serving as a CLF director and is committee chairman for gift acknowledgments. Ms. Gibbs is a native Texan and a graduate of Texas Southern University, from which she holds a Master of Education degree (guidance and counseling). She is in her 12th year with the Houston Independent School District and is cur-

rently a business education teacher at Barbara Jordan High School. She has been active in genealogy and family history since 1988 and is a past president of the Houston chapter, African-American Historical Genealogical Society. She publishes the *Bass-Tyler Times*, a family newsletter.

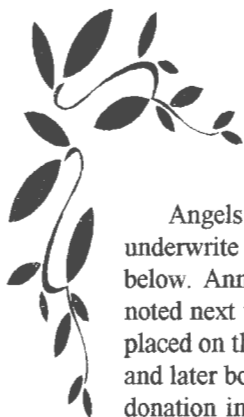
Suzanne Sandlin Gay, nominee for director, is a native Houstonian and currently is a law library assistant at the Exxon Company USA Law Library in downtown Houston. Susie holds a BS degree in psychology from the University of Houston and looks forward to completing an MS degree in library and information sciences through the University of North Texas by the end of this year. An active CLF member for the past two years, she has contributed articles to *The CLF Newsletter*, acted as corresponding secretary, and supported acquisition projects through the Clayton Library Friends.

Kim Allen Morton, nominee for director, is a graduate of the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California, and holds degrees in physical education and education. He is a former teacher with the Houston Independent School District. Kim is an active member of the Humble Area Genealogical Society and has served for the past six years as genealogist for the Pineywoods Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. He is a genealogy lecturer and teacher and has a background in professional research.

Gayle Sandstedt Workman, nominee for director, is a native of Sarpy

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Angels report

Angels Needed! Individuals are needed to underwrite subscriptions to the periodicals listed below. Annual subscription fees, if known, are noted next to the title. These periodicals will be placed on the periodical shelf at Clayton Library and later bound. If you like, you may make your donation in memory or honor of someone, and this will be acknowledged in the February newsletter. 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 or call (713) 944-1118. Most subscriptions come up for renewal on December 31, 1998.

Tap Roots (Alabama), \$15.
Alabama Genealogical Society Magazine, \$15.
Central Alabama Genealogical Society Biannual, \$20.
Central Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly, \$20.
Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly, \$20.
Topeka Genealogical Society Quarterly (Kansas), \$15.
Le Raconteur (Louisiana), \$15.
Northeast Mississippi Historical & Gen. Soc. Qtrly, \$15.
AGLL Genealogy Bulletin, \$18.
American Genealogical Magazine, \$22.50
Annals of Wyoming, \$20.
Appalachian Families (mid-Atlantic states), \$15.
Appalachian Roots (West Virginia), \$18.
Appleland Bulletin (Washington), \$15.
Area Footprints (Colorado), \$17.
Blackhawk Genealogical Society Quarterly (Illinois), \$10.
Blue Grass Roots (Kentucky), \$10.
Chicago Genealogist, \$16.

Connecticut Maple Leaf, \$20.
Dakota Homestead Newsletter (North Dakota), \$18.
Family History Capers (Washtenaw Cty, Michigan), \$14.
Family Puzzlers: The Next Generation, \$50.
Family Tree (British Isles), \$42.
Flint Genealogical Quarterly (Michigan), \$15.
Florida Historical Quarterly, \$15.
Foothills Inquirer (Colorado), \$10.
Gems of Genealogy (Wisconsin), \$10.
Genealogical Society of Vermont Quarterly, \$20.
Genealogy Club of Albuquerque, \$10.
Immigration Digest, \$10.
Journal of American Indian Family Research, \$25.
Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America
Lifelines (northern New York), \$25.
Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy and History, \$18.
Montgomery Genealogical Society Qtrly (Alabama), \$15.
Nugget and CGS Newsletter (California), \$30 (for both).
Rowan County Register (North Carolina), \$25.
Seneca Searchers (Ohio), \$10.
Somos Primos (Hispanic focus), \$15.

Donations are also needed for the acquisition of missing back issues of certain periodicals. Since the library only binds complete sets (all of the issues for a particular year), those periodicals that are incomplete remain unbound. This causes a storage problem for the library. It also means that, if a patron wants to access these periodicals, a library staff member must retrieve them from storage. Please consider making a donation to help solve this problem. ■

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County, Nebraska, but has resided in Houston since 1976. She has served the Houston Genealogical Forum in many capacities since 1992. She served two terms as second vice president/membership chair and is currently in her second year as corresponding secretary. Gayle has also acted as the Forum's publicity chair and seminar chair and has served on two nominating committees and as a volunteer on the mailing committee.

She coordinated the Forum's appearances on Channel 8 during the December 1996 fundraising drive and has written articles for the Forum's *Genealogical Record*.

John Dorroh, nominee for director, served two terms as CLF president (1995, 1996) and is currently serving as a CLF director. Previous CLF service also includes chairmanship of CLF's grants and endowments committee and coordinator for Clayton

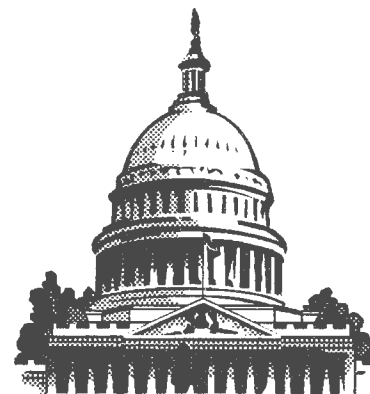
Library Activities during the 1994 NGS Conference, for which CLF served as the host society. For the past two years, he has been an assistant editor of *The CLF Newsletter*. John is a native of Houston and a graduate of the College of William and Mary.

C. Kipp Ferns, nominee for director, is currently serving as an appointed CLF director. [The editor regrets that, at press time, no additional biographical information was available.] ■

❑ WHAT'S IN THE LIBRARY

Marriage and Death Notices from the National Intelligencer

by Don Pusch



I was recently doing some research on a Mexican War veteran who entered service from the District of Columbia, and the Clayton Library Finding Aids led me to the library's microfilm collection of marriage and death notices from the *National Intelligencer*. This proved to be a very valuable—and easy to use—resource, and I'd recommend it to researchers who are interested in the Washington, D.C. area or who have ancestors with links to that area. Published from 1800 to 1863, the *Intelligencer* had a wide circulation and served in many respects as a national publication. Its obituary notices are excellent sources of information on Revolutionary War veterans and on individuals who may have been killed in the War of 1812, the Indian Wars, or in the Mexican War. The local subscription area of the *Intelligencer* included the District of Columbia (Georgetown, Washington, and Alexandria) and the surrounding counties of Maryland and Virginia. However, it is common to find notices involving people in New York, Pennsylvania, and the New England states, and—especially for people of political, literary, or military renown—the *Intelligencer* frequently included death notices from the Midwest, South and, later, California.

The publication itself is entitled *Marriage and Death Notices from the National Intelligencer (Washington, DC), 1800-1850*, and it is divided into two volumes contained on three reels of microfilm. The first part of reel 1 contains the 481-page index; the second part contains abstracts of marriage and death notices for the years 1800 through 1834. Reel 2 contains abstracts for the years 1835 through 1846. And reel 3 contains abstracts for the years 1847 through 1850. Altogether, the abstracts form a sizable publication at 2,652 pages (not counting the index). Researchers will be pleased to know that every page of this microfilm publication is fully legible and easy to use. Surnames are in all-caps, and entries are in hanging-indent form. On all three reels, the top of each page is labeled with the year—no need to crank the film back to see what year you are looking at! Following each entry, the compilers have provided, in parentheses, the date (or dates) on which

the notice appeared in the *Intelligencer*. You can find this microfilm in cabinet 37, drawer 10. Look for the word "DC" on the front of the drawer.

The index—by Margaret Elliott Higgins—is one of the best I've seen. Every name found in the abstracts is included, and at the end of the name section is a "miscellaneous" section that contains entries for businesses, mills, stores, mines, hotels, factories, boarding houses, etc. that are mentioned in the abstracts. Another very useful feature of the index—one I haven't seen before—is the inclusion of a special section labeled "??." In this section, the indexer has included—for women only—those "suspicious" middle names that may, in fact, have been acquired through marriage. So, in the "??" section you will find, for example, Eliza Preston Carrington Benton indexed under both Preston and Carrington. Her Benton name will appear in the main index.

Of special interest in this microfilm set are the numerous obituaries that contain such things as places of birth, military service, life achievements, family relations, and places of residence. The death notice for Richard Dinmore (1811) is an example of one of the more comprehensive ones:

DINMORE, Dr. Richard, formerly of Norwich, Eng., but for many yrs. a resident of this city, died Sept. 26, aged 46. He was born in Norwich, Eng., Dec. 8, 1765. His father was a tradesman in that city and still lives. Dr. Dinmore was educated by his wealthy uncle, who placed him with a country physician to study medicine. He married a lady named Shreeve. At the expiration of his apprenticeship, his uncle having died and left him his money, he was sent to London to complete his medical education. On his return from London in 1788, where he specialized in anatomy, he settled at Watton, in his native country. In 1797 he came to Washington with his wife and only surviving child, which he afterwards lost. He first opened a school, and afterwards operated a grocery store in Georgetown, and

later became editor of a paper in Alexandria. His son died in Washington and his wife passed away in Alexandria, leaving him with an infant dau., the 16th child of this union. He afterwards married the dau. of his stepmother, who had been left a widow. (Sep. 21, Oct. 8)

Some of the death notices appear rather strangely constructed when compared to their modern-day counterparts. Take for example these two, the first from 1811, the second from 1818:

THOMAS, Mrs. Jane, wife of Col. John Thomas, died Apr. 16, aged 91. She was a sincere and spirited Whig. In the year 1779, when the Tories attacked the house of her husband to get a magazine [ammunition] kept there, she cooperated with her son and son-in-law in guarding it. While they fired on the assailants, she advanced in front of them with a sword in her hand and dared them to come in. They were intimidated and retired. (June 4)

OLDMIXON, Sir. John, died lately in the U.S. He retired from England from pecuniary embarrassment about 25 yrs. ago.... One half of his children were born in America and the other half are lieutenants in the British Navy. (Sep. 24)

We find numerous reports in the *Intelligencer* on the activities of military officers who had family connections in D.C. but who were themselves serving at remote posts in the west. Here are a couple of examples from the years 1846 and 1848, respectively:

PORTER, Lt., was killed by Mexicans April 21, 1846, on the Rio Grande. He had married a short time before his death a daughter of Major Benjamin Lloyd Beall, formerly of this city, now in command of the 2nd Dragoons, in Texas. His wife and daughter are now at Ft. Washita, late station of Major Beall. (May 7, 1846 & May 13, 1846)

PRINTISS, Capt. James H., of the U.S. Artillery, died at Point Isabel Sept. 23, 1848. He entered the service in 1830, after graduating from West Point, as a Brevet 2nd Lt. of the Artillery. He served in the Indian War and the Black Hawk campaign, and subsequently visited Europe. In 1839 he was advanced to Asst. Adjutant General, with the rank of Captain. At commencement of the Mexican War he was a Captain in General Wool's Artillery and was at the operation at Vera Cruz. (Oct. 13, 1848)

Marriage notices in the *Intelligencer* usually provided just "bare-bones" information. A typical entry will provide the names (and sometimes origins) of the bride and groom, the name of the bride's father, and the place of the wedding. There are, however, numerous entries that make no mention of the bride's parents. In the case where the bride is a widow, in general, no mention is made of her maiden name or parentage. The following two entries, the first from 1810, the second from 1844, are typical:

TARRENCE, John, of this city, and Miss Nancy GOODMAN, of P. G. Co., Md., were married Dec. 13. (Dec. 15)

HUGHES, George W., U.S. Civil Engineers, and Ann Sarah MAXCY, daughter of Virgil MAXCY, were married Dec. 16 by the Rev. Mr. Woart. (Dec. 18)

I would highly recommend this microfilm. Since the content spans 50 years, it is often possible to rough out entire family groups using just this source. Also, it is possible in some cases to trace the movements of families or individuals into other parts of the country, as reports of marriages and deaths were often sent back to D.C. and picked up in the *Intelligencer*.

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Cavaliers and Pioneers: Virginia Land Patents

by Emily Croom

WHAT a treasure for researchers! Literally thousands of ancestors lurk in the records of the old Virginia Land Office, housed since 1948 in the archives of the Library of Virginia. The 140-plus volumes of records fall basically into four groups: colonial patents and grants; deeds issued by Thomas Lord Fairfax, proprietor of the Northern Neck, beginning in 1690; grants by the Commonwealth of Virginia after 1779; and grants of Northern Neck lands after the Revolution.

The long-established idea that all English land was held by the Crown also governed distribution of land in colonial Virginia, first through the Virginia Company of London under its royal charter (1607-1624) and then through the king's officials in the colonial government (1624 forward). The year 1624 marked the revocation of the charter of the Virginia Company and the beginning of royal administration of the colony.

The patent was the instrument by which land was transferred from the Crown to an individual. (The same principle governed the distribution of federal land from the United States government to private owners from the late eighteenth century forward.) During the early colonial period, Virginia settlers qualified for patents under basically two systems: headrights and treasury rights.

In the seventeenth century, most of the patents were issued under the headright system. The London Company and then the Crown allowed persons who paid their own passage to the colony to obtain fifty acres each and an additional fifty acres for each person whose way they paid. For example, in November 1651, Henry Soane received a patent for 297 acres in James City County for transporting six persons: himself, Henry Soane Jr., Judeth (*sic*) Soane Sr., Judeth Soane Jr., John Soane, and Eliza. (*sic*) Soane (*Cavaliers and Pioneers*, Vol 1:222). This abstract sends up a red flag for the genealogist to investigate the possibility or likelihood that these persons were Henry's wife and children.

These headright claims could be held for months or years before being used or could be transferred to another individual, or assignee. In the example above, therefore, we cannot know from this source alone when Henry Soane first arrived in the colony or how long he waited to make his claim. When Daniell Coleman and Samuel Williams re-

ceived 600 acres in 1703 for transporting twelve individuals, all of different surnames, the patentees themselves were not counted as headrights (*Cavaliers and Pioneers*, Vol 3: 74). We may believe, therefore, that Coleman and Williams were not new arrivals, but we cannot tell (1) whether they had paid passage for these headrights or simply acquired the rights from someone else, (2) whether they had any personal acquaintance with the headrights, (3) when the headrights arrived, (4) whether the headrights were new immigrants or settlers returning from a trip abroad, or (5) where any of the headrights were living in 1703. All we know for certain is that the patentees and the headrights were in Virginia by the date of the patent. Headrights included persons of all classes and stations: gentry, nobility, yeomanry, merchants, students, indentured servants, relatives, family servants, and, until 1699, Negroes.

In 1699, the government renewed treasury rights as a method of obtaining land without bringing in settlers. Under this system a person could purchase fifty acres from the government for five shillings. This program accounted for most of the Virginia patents issued in the eighteenth century.

The law required that the patentee, in order to keep his land, had to settle the land within three years and pay an annual quitrent to the crown, one shilling for each fifty acres owned. Settling was accomplished by "seating and planting." Seating meant building a house and keeping livestock; planting meant clearing and cultivating the required number of acres, at first one acre per fifty and later three of each fifty owned.

Fortunately for researchers, most land patents from 1624 forward survived, at least long enough to be copied into the patent books as we know them. This process of transcription began in 1683, and it is these copies we read in the land office records. Some of them are written in that wonderful seventeenth century style handwriting, with its "backward" *es* and "old style" capital letters. The preliminary documents created in the process of obtaining the patent (certificates or warrants, surveys, and plats) no longer exist, unless the county kept a record of the survey.

These valuable records now exist in three forms: books, microfilm, and computer database available on the Internet.

The books, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, are, in 1998, a five-volume set of abstracts covering patents and grants from the earliest to 1749. Two more volumes are planned. Usually, the abstracts give the patentee's name and patent date; the size and location of the land, including adjoining neighbors; and, when applicable, the names of the persons brought into the colony whose passage qualified the applicant for headrights. The later abstracts also may mention the kind of patent being issued: new land, old land, part new and part old, resurveyed land, marsh or swamp land, lapsed land, or escheat land. *Lapsed* land was land that, once patented, had not been settled within the required three years and had reverted to the crown. *Escheat* land was land whose owner had died without heirs or, on rare occasions, had been convicted of a felony.

The published books have thorough indexes that offer the researcher a variety of options in using the abstracts. Most genealogists use the indexes to identify ancestors by surname and given name, to find their patents, or to learn where they are mentioned in patents of other people. For example, ancestors who had their passage to Virginia paid by someone else may be listed among headrights or "transported" persons. Ancestors may also be listed as adjoining landholders in a neighbor's patent.

The indexes also facilitate the study of "neighborhoods" when we want to study the cluster of an ancestor's relatives, neighbors, and associates. Since the abstracts note the bodies of water which form boundaries for much of the patented land, researchers can look up these features in the index and discover other landowners along the same bodies. The index covers creeks, branches, rivers, swamps and marshes, ponds, and springs, as well as roads and paths, counties, parishes, plantations, towns, and any other geographic names in the land descriptions.

Researchers may well want to begin with the abstract books to identify any ancestors who are included. Then, in Volume 4, pages xv to xxxvi, are the forms used for the different kinds of patents (escheat, resurveyed, new land, etc.). It is helpful to photocopy the one appropriate to each ancestor's patent. It is both interesting and wise for us as researchers to look at the "originals" on microfilm; they are the primary source. Since some of the microfilmed patent books are faded, torn, or otherwise difficult to read, the photocopied formats and published abstracts facilitate our reading and understanding.

The patents read much like deeds. They give the name and often the residence of the patentee, the number of acres in the acquisition, its county and boundary descriptions, the former patentee if applicable, and the patent date. Like deeds, the patents also spell out the rights and privileges that go along with the land, including "hunting hawking fishing fowling and all other profits commodities and hereditaments whatsoever...to the same...belonging or any-

wise appertaining." The documents also name any headrights attached to the transaction.

The complete microfilm set at the Library of Virginia encompasses patents from 1623 to 1948, of which Clayton Library has 12 rolls, covering the period 1623-1730. Each roll of microfilm reproduces one or two of the original patent books. Most of the patent books begin with indexes. The index entry gives the patentee's name, the number of acres, and the page number where the document is found.

From the Library of Virginia home page on the Internet (<<http://leo.vsla.edu/>>), researchers can access databases for the Northern Neck grants (1690-1874), copies of grants not called for (1639-1860), original patents and grants (1728-1933), index to land patents and grants (1623-1980), patents (1623-1774), index to land patents (Vol. 1-42), index to Charles City and Prince George County surveys, and abstracts of patents and grants by county, including some counties now in Kentucky and West Virginia. From a surname index, a searcher can read abstract cards for the patents and, if the user's computer has the capability, images of the patents themselves. This database is an important one of a growing number of "real research" opportunities on the Internet.

In Virginia, the "Ancient Planters" and adventurers were the earliest arrivals who came between 1607 and 1624 and who, for us, largely remain nameless. So many had died from hunger, disease, accidents, and a 1621 Indian massacre that by early 1622 it was estimated that fewer than a thousand were left. Most of these survivors had arrived after 1616, and some were landholders. The introduction to Volume 1 of *Cavaliers and Pioneers* lists known Ancient Planters who arrived mostly between 1607 and 1616 and were still living in 1624.

The land patents form a remarkable record of immigration to colonial Virginia, especially since passenger lists and other records of immigration are rarities before 1820. They are also a valuable tool in the study of ancestors' land transactions, holdings, and neighborhoods. In Houston, we are fortunate to have access to all three forms of these documents at Clayton Library.

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Emily Croom is a member of Clayton Library Friends and the author of three widely known genealogy how-to and reference books: *Unpuzzling Your Past*, *The Unpuzzling Your Past Workbook*, and *The Genealogist's Companion & Sourcebook*.

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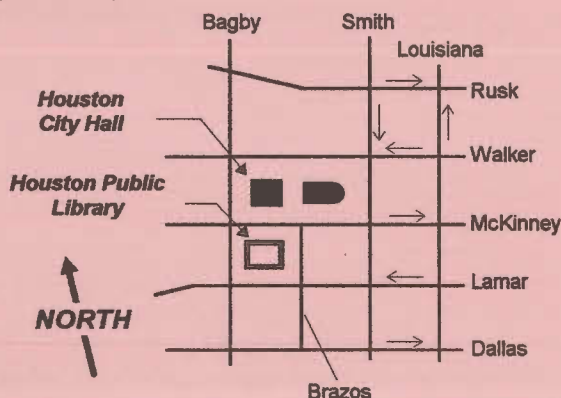
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