



THE CLF NEWSLETTER

Vol. XIII

August 1999

No. 3

Additional Smith Foundation funds received

In the May newsletter, we announced receipt of grant money from the William A. and Madeline Welder Smith Foundation for the purchase of passenger lists. A second grant has now also been received from the Smith Foundation, this one for \$10,000 to purchase additional U.S. city directories. A priority for this acquisition will be those geographical areas for which no 1910 Soundex exists. This includes the state of New York, which, for many researchers, is the spot where their European immigrant ancestors first established themselves. CLF will purchase directories for the years 1901-1910 for

Brooklyn, Buffalo, New York City, Queens, and nearby Newark, New Jersey. We will also include in this order directories for Minneapolis, St. Paul, Seattle, Indianapolis, Denver, and Milwaukee, all of which are lacking 1910 Soundex. A second priority is to acquire directories to fill the gap left by the loss of the population schedules of the 1890 census. Smith Foundation funds will be used to purchase 27 rolls of city directories around this time period. The library expects to have all of this city directory material in the film cabinets and available for patron use by late August. ■

President's Message

I continue to be amazed at how the Clayton collection has grown in quantity and quality over the past several years. And I feel this amazement very keenly when I have a chance to compare Clayton with other libraries. We have, right here in our collection, many hard to find reference works that one might expect to find only in a state library or in libraries specializing in particular geographical regions. We are able to keep Clayton among the best in the country only through the continued support of individual and corporate donors who share our pride in the library. Thanks to all of you for your generosity.

We recently received a donation from the Colonial Dames that is being used to complete the Virginia land records series. That film has been received and should be available for patron use by the time you receive this newsletter. I was pleased to find, on my arrival back from the NGS conference, that we had received a second grant from the Smith Foundation. See the accompanying announcement.

Both Marje Harris (Clayton Library manager) and Margaret Tufts (assistant manager) were able to attend the NGS conference in Richmond this past May, as were John Dorroh, Mic Barnette, and myself. We were all proud of the fact that CLF seems to have a widely recognized reputation. More than once I heard the comment, "I wish our library friends were as active as yours."

(Continued on page 5)

CLF nominating committee formed

At the May 8th CLF general membership meeting, the individuals listed below were elected to serve on a nominating committee for the fall election. The committee's recommendation will be published in the November newsletter and presented to the membership at the November 13th CLF meeting. If you would like to be considered for one of the executive board openings in 1999, please contact a member of the committee.

- Susie Gay
- Betty Mohrman
- Al Pruett
- Don Pusch
- David Singleton

NEXT MEETING



Saturday

August 14th, 10:00 a.m.

Bayland Community Center

6400 Bissonnet

(between Hillcroft and Beechnut)

SPEAKER

Pat Metcalfe, CLF President

TOPIC

Resources you may have missed
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.

OFFICERS

- Patricia Palmer Metcalfe ..President
- Martha Anderson Burg1st VP
- J. Albert Pruett, Jr.2nd VP
- Joyce Baskin PetersonSecretary
- Elois Gibbs Treasurer

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CLF NEWSLETTER STAFF

- Donald E. Pusch, editor
- Pat Metcalfe, John Dorroh, and Suzanne Gay, assistant editors

Annual Membership Dues

- Individual \$10.00
- Two people (same address).. \$15.00

Special Friends

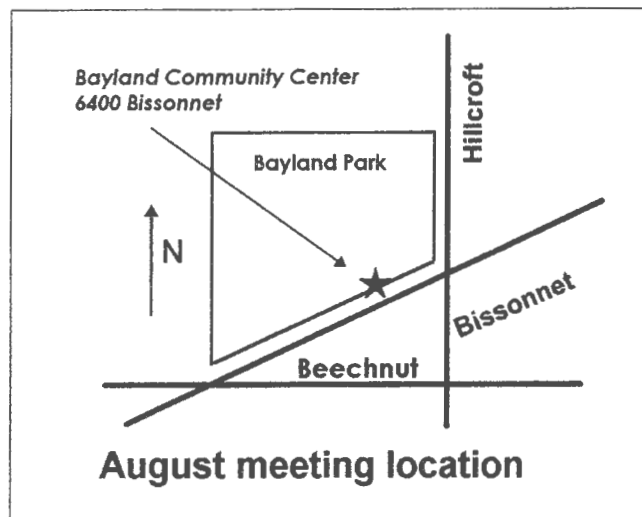
- Contributor \$1 to \$49
- Donor \$50 to \$99
- Patron.....\$100 to \$249
- Sponsor.....\$250 to \$499
- Benefactor.....\$500 and above

**Clayton Library Friends
Financial Report**

April 1 through June 30, 1999

CHECKING ACCOUNT—Wells Fargo Bank	
Starting Balance	\$ 47,256
Unrestricted Funds.....	6,650
Restricted Funds:	
Binding.....	698
Endowment.....	- 0 -
Other.....	23,635
CLF Operating Funds.....	16,273
Deposits, total.....	13,956
Unrestricted Funds.....	1,168
Restricted Funds:	
Binding.....	162
Endowment.....	- 0 -
Other.....	11,891
CLF Operating Funds.....	735
Withdrawals, total.....	20,228
Unrestricted Funds.....	951
Restricted Funds:	
Binding.....	163
Endowment.....	- 0 -
Other.....	18,845
CLF Operating Funds.....	269
Ending Balance.....	40,985
Unrestricted Funds.....	6,867
Restricted Funds:	
Binding.....	698
Endowment.....	- 0 -
Other.....	16,681
CLF Operating Funds.....	16,739
ENDOWMENT FUND—Univ. Bank16,151	
Certificate of deposit #1	12,540
Savings account.....	3,576

Elois Gibbs, Treasurer



French Archives Finding Aids

By Robert de Berardinis, OMPL



Clayton Library recently added to its foreign collection volumes 1, 2, and 4 of *État des inventaires* (Paris: Archives Nationales, 1985-) (A673 FRANCE)¹ and the two-volume set, *État des inventaires des archives départementales, communales, et hospitalières...* (Paris: Archives Nationales, 1984) (D598 FRANCE). These, together with the previously acquired four-volume set, *État générale des fonds* (Paris: Archives Nationales, 1978-80) (944 A673), give Clayton Library patrons powerful aids for French historical and genealogical research. Aside from the Library of Congress, Clayton appears to be the only public library in the U.S. with the complete set of these reference books.² It should be noted, however, that none of the *État* volumes give actual abstracts of documents; rather, they help researchers narrow the focus of their searches by describing the organization of the records and providing bibliographic citations to published finding aids.³

Individuals involved in French research know that it is almost impossible to gather "best evidence"⁴ on a French ancestor unless they can research in the French National Archives (*Archives nationales de France*) or the various departmental archives (*archives départementales*) and municipal archives (*archives municipales*). Although there is a substantial amount of French material available on microfilm from the Family History Libraries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, that collection is far from complete, and it is often necessary to either visit the archives in France or to write to them and request copies of specific documents.⁵ Thus, determining what to ask for needs to be high on the researcher's list of priorities. The *État* volumes can be a big help in this regard.

The *État des inventaires des archives départementales* is a research guide to the holdings of France's 99 *départements* (similar to the county subdivisions used in the U.S.). By law, the French *archives départementales* are custodians not only of the notarial records older than 125 years but of church records created prior to the French Revolution.⁶ This is because all French church records created prior to 1685—the date of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes—and Catholic church records for the period 1685 to 1791 are considered to be official records of

the state and can be cited for legal proof of baptism (birth), marriage, and burial (death).⁷

An important aspect of the *État des inventaires des archives départementales* is that it contains bibliographic citations for supplementary guides and inventories that better define the content of each series (or lower-level divisions), so that specific documents can be located.⁸ The following listed series of records at the *archives départementales* will be of the most interest to family historians:

- 2 E series (if it exists) of the alphabetical tables (either year-by-year or in ten-year increments) of Catholic records and city indexes of them prior to 1791
- 3 E series of the notarial records
- GG series of Catholic Church records⁹
- H series of charitable organizations' records
- I series of Protestant records

Researchers seeking to find documents held at the department level should very carefully check the *État des inventaires des archives départementales* and then follow-up by examining the guides and inventories listed therein. The same procedure can be followed for records held at the national level using the multi-volume *État générale des fonds* and *État des inventaires*.

The *État générale des fonds* volumes show the classifications, *i.e.*, *séries*, *sous-séries*, and *articles*, into which the holdings of the various archives are divided and by which the documents can be retrieved. Although written in French, the descriptions contained in the *État générale des fonds* volumes are concise and fairly easy to translate with the aid of a French-English dictionary. The following series of records at the *Archives nationales* will be of the most interest to family historians:

- H² series for Parisian ancestors between 1536-1796
- M series under "*Ordres militaires et hospitaliers*" (military and charitable orders)
- M series under "*Titres nobiliaires*" (noble titles)
- O¹ series under "*Actes royaux*" (royal acts)¹⁰

- P series under “*Dénombrements*” (tax enumerations)¹¹
- TT series under “*Affaires et biens des Protestants*”¹²
- Series Y and ZZ under “*Châtelet de Paris*” (notarial archives)¹³

To get a better understanding of the content of each of these series, the researcher should consult the *État des inventaires*. Like its two-volume counterpart at the department level, this reference provides the researcher with bibliographic citations to published guides, inventories, and other supplementary material describing the content of a series (or lower-level division).¹⁴ The two sets of books (*État générale des fonds* and *État des inventaires*) were designed by the *Archives nationales* to be used “side-by-side.” Although useful by themselves, their value is increased when they are used together.

The books described above are shelved in the foreign section of the library under “France.” Individuals currently researching a French ancestor, or planning to do such research, would do well to become familiar with these references, especially if that research includes visits to, or correspondence with, French archives.

End Notes

1. Here and elsewhere in this article, call numbers are noted for those books that are available at Clayton Library.

2. Worldcat database of library holdings on OCLC First Search, an on-line service accessible on Houston Public Library computer terminals or through HPL’s Internet home page at <http://www.hpl.lib.tx.us>.

3. For information on specific techniques for conducting French research, the author recommends Gildas Bernard, *Guide des recherches sur l’histoire des familles* (Paris: Archives Nationales, 1988) (944 B518 FRANCE) and *Les familles protestantes en France: XVIIe siècle – 1792* (Paris: Archives Nationales, 1987) (944 B518 FRANCE). The best book in English on French genealogy is Pierre Durye, *Genealogy: An Introduction to Continental Concepts*, trans. by Wilson Ober Clough (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1977) (940 D969 EUROPE). Durye was an eminent genealogist and chief custodian of the *Archives nationales*.

4. For a description of the term, see Noel C. Stevenson, *Genealogical Evidence: A Guide to the Standard of Proof Relating to the Pedigrees, Ancestry, Heirship and Family History*, revised edition (Laguna Hills, California: Aegean Park Press, 1989) (929.1072 S848 USA), p. 185. It is the nature of French law that qualifies certain French archival records—including church records prior to 1791—for designation as “best evidence.” French notarial records, e.g., marriage contracts, testaments, inventories, and

minutes of family meetings, also qualify for this designation.

5. It is quite possible to do French research without being fluent in French; however, when writing to French archives, it is important to write in the French language. The author recommends high school French teachers as a source for help in writing and translating correspondence, since such exercises have a very practical use in the classroom. In addition, there is the Alliance Française in Houston, which is composed of French speakers. For additional comments on obtaining records from France see Robert de Berardinis, “The Marriage Contract of Jean-Baptiste Durel and Cécille Le Brun of New Orleans, Louisiana,” accepted for publication (1999) by the *NGS Quarterly*, and de Berardinis, “The French Ancestry of Antoine Déjan of New Orleans, Louisiana,” accepted for publication (1999) by *The American Genealogist*.

6. Durye, *Genealogy*, pp. 83 (for church records) and 108 (for notarial archives). See also Bernard, *Guide des recherches*, pp. 30-31, 35-40. There are a few exceptions to this law in terms of the proper custodian, but by writing to the *archives départementales* the address of the proper custodian can be obtained.

7. Bernard, *Guide des recherches*, pp. 27-34, and Durye, *Genealogy*, pp. 81-82.

8. Most of these supplemental guides are available via inter-library loan through Worldcat on OCLC First Search. Also, the *Archives nationales* has published some abstracts in its inventory summaries and supplements, the bibliographic citations for which appear in *État des inventaires des archives départementales*. In addition, Clayton Library has a listing of the various genealogy clubs in France that will help researchers find records, either for free or for a pittance compared to the fees charged by the state vital records offices.

9. The *État des inventaires des archives départementales* does not provide specific information on the GG series; however, by writing to the departmental archive, researchers can obtain bibliographies of guides and other finding aids for specific parishes.

10. This also includes *lettres patentes* by which individuals were ennobled.

11. There are, apart from these, published transcriptions and abstracts of the taxpayer rolls for the various districts of Paris.

12. The *Société de protestantisme* (54 rue de Sts.-Pères, 75007 Paris) has published most of the documents contained within this series and has collated them with other records from across all of France. Anyone doing Huguenot or Waldeniste research is well advised to get in touch with this society.

13. These are the notarial archives for Paris, a necessary part of research for Parisian marriage contracts,

testaments, and inventories. For information on their nature and the retrieval of data from them, see de Berardinis, "The Marriage Contract of Jean-Baptiste," cited at note 5. Also, for Paris, the best method is to use the genealogy club there.

14. Again, most of these summaries are available through inter-library loan.



More 1920 Soundex purchased

Thanks to gifts from individual members (and, in many cases, matching gifts from their employers), CLF has purchased additional 1920 Soundex film to fill some of the few gaps that still remain in the Clayton collection. We now have complete sets of 1920 Soundex for Delaware and Wyoming and have placed orders for additional Minnesota Soundex. This latter material is expected to be in and available for patron use in late August.

We would like to remind everyone that, at \$34 per roll, Soundex film is one of the best values around and is one of the most used resources at the library. Funds are still needed to round out the 1920 collection, so please consider making a donation to CLF for that purpose. Checks can be sent to the CLF mailing address or, if you happen to be in the library, you can place your check or cash donation in the collection box at the foot of the stairs in the main building. ■

President's Message (Continued from page 1)

Prior to the NGS conference, the CLF executive board allocated \$500 for Marje and Margaret to purchase materials for the library, and they found some very good values there. There were special conference prices on many items, and the two took full advantage of last-day-of-the-conference discounts. The resulting purchases should be on the shelves soon.

Please continue to spread the word about Clayton. There are still people from the Houston area who are making annual research trips to the east-coast because they don't know that we exist. If you have contacts in genealogy groups in the local area, please call me (713-721-7062) and I can get you some CLF fliers and perhaps some of our new CLF pencils to hand out to prospective members.

Other news items:

- At the May CLF meeting, the membership approved a change to Article XII of the CLF bylaws. As a result, the requirement for publication of the *Yearbook* has been dropped, and names of our contributors will be included once a year as an insert to *The CLF Newsletter*.
- Karen Daniel, a past president of CLF, has moved to Albuquerque.
- Do you know of people who would like to speak at one of our CLF meetings? If so, please contact me or one of the other board members. (Topics should be related to Clayton Library.)

Pat Metcalfe
CLF President



"Texas Room" seminar slated

On September 18th, Clayton Library Friends will host a seminar on Houston Public Library's Texas and Local History Collection. This collection is housed in the Texas Room on the second floor of the Julia Ideson building (in the same block as HPL's main building between McKinney and Lamar). The genealogical collection in the Texas Room was moved to the newly established Clayton Library in 1968; however, many resources of interest to genealogists remained in the "history" collection. If you are not familiar with the Texas Room, this is one seminar you should definitely plan to attend.

Speaker for the event will be Ms. Carol Johnson, manager of the Texas Room. An overview of the collection will be provided, and Ms. Johnson will have on hand a number of sample items that she thinks will most interest CLF members. After the seminar, attendees will have an opportunity to visit the Texas Room and to take advantage of its resources.

The seminar will be held in the auditorium of the Julia Ideson building, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Since we expect this to be a very popular program, it is recommended that you register early. Please see the flyer at the center fold of this newsletter. ■



Angels report

Clayton Library Friends started the Angels program in 1994 to help Clayton Library acquire genealogical periodicals for which the library had no budget. Each year, in the November newsletter, we publish the library's subscription "wish list" for the upcoming year and seek "Angels" willing to underwrite the subscription costs. Also, since the library is missing back issues of some periodicals, the Angels program expanded to include fund raising for back issues as well. The acquisition of back issues is important, since the library only binds complete periodical volumes (all issues for a single year). Incomplete volumes remain unbound and in storage. If a researcher wants to see a particular issue of one of these incomplete volumes, a library staff member must retrieve it for them. Thus, filling in gaps in the library's existing periodical collection and getting the volumes bound and shelved saves storage space and reduces the staff workload, not to mention the fact that the periodical collection is made more accessible to researchers.

When patrons provide funds for subscriptions or for back issues, acknowledgment is made in *The CLF Newsletter*. Since the last report, the following "Angels" have provided funds for the program:

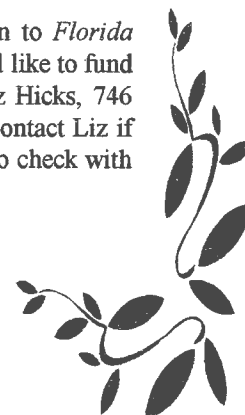
Mr. Patrick F. Cochran: Complete set of *The CLF Newsletter* and cash donations for the purchase of volumes 9 through 12 of *Upper South Carolina Genealogy and History* (in honor of Janis Jo Worthen), and 1995-98 issues of *South Carolina Historical Magazine* (in memory of Mr. Cochran's father, Bert C. Cochran).

Mrs. Phyllis Gough Huffington: Back issues of *Genealogists' Magazine* (United Kingdom), *Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly* (1968-70 name indexes); *Southside Virginian*; and *Allen Historian*.

Mr. Warren T. Thagard III: *Moore County* (North Carolina) *Genealogical Society Newsletter*, April 1995-April, 1999; *Cumberland* (North Carolina) *Chronicles*, 1995-June 1999; *Crenshaw County* (Alabama) *Historical Society Quarterly*, 1995-April 1999; and *Lowndes County Historical & Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 1995-April 1999.

Nathan and Kaydee Mathews: Volumes 31 and 32 of *Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

An "Angel" is needed immediately to renew Clayton Library's subscription to *Florida Historical Society Quarterly*, which expired in June 1999. Cost: \$40. If you would like to fund this or other subscriptions through the CLF Angels program, please contact Liz Hicks, 746 Edgebrook, Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030, phone (713) 944-1118. Also, please contact Liz if you own periodicals that you would like to donate to Clayton. She will be happy to check with the library to see if the issues you have are needed in the periodical collection. ■



□ WHAT'S IN THE LIBRARY

Southern Legacy: The Leonardo Andrea Collection

By Gay E. Carter

In 1996, Clayton Library Friends purchased the Leonardo Andrea Collection for Clayton Library. This rich collection of genealogical data was amassed by well-respected South Carolina genealogist Leonardo Andrea. Mr. Andrea's collection focuses on the Southern states and consists of 1,029 file folders covering 825 surnames. Included are materials such as genealogical reports, transcripts of Bible records, pedigree charts, and clippings. His extensive files of genealogical correspondence form another part of the collection.

The microfilm collection held by Clayton Library consists of two series: 1) *Genealogical Folders in the Leonardo Andrea Collection* (51 reels) and 2) *Genealogical Correspondence* (21 reels). A finding aid listing the contents of each reel is available in the microprint finding aids on the second floor of the library. Filed in the "Collections" binder, it gives the location of the collection (cabinet 34, drawer 1) and the corresponding reel numbers assigned by Clayton Library.

This finding aid also serves as an index to the collection. The *Genealogical Correspondence* list shows the alphabetical arrangement of the 21 reels. Similarly, the *Genealogical Folders* list groups the folders by reel, giving each folder number and associated surnames. While the arrangement is numerical by folder, it is at the same time alphabetical by surname, making it easy to find the folders you need.

The first reel of the *Genealogical Folders* collection includes a handwritten index to the folders. This is arranged by folder number, then surname, with a brief description of the contents. An example appears in the inset below:

543

* McCaskill ___ A 22 Page File _ Includes a 9 Page Ms.
(No original of Ms. __ Only a carbon on Yellow Paper in Folder)

The page preceding the index notes: "The asterisk indicates the file was Xeroxed by Mrs. Faunt. Many of these Xeroxed files have pages missing." The researcher is further cautioned by several disclaimers filmed ahead of the index and folders: "Intermittently Throughout Volume -- Material On Back Shows Through -- Loose Pages -- Many Shades of Paper -- Faded Writing -- Damaged Copy -- Photostat -- Poor Copy -- Numbering Error -- Blue Paper -- May Appear Out of Focus." In other words, you will find varying qualities of readability in the files!

The *Genealogical Correspondence* folders are in alphabetical order by the names of the **correspondents**. There will be a general letter folder, such as "F," on which will be listed each letter-writer and a list of surnames covered by the letters. However, don't bypass the index at the beginning of reel 1 of the correspondence files. This index lists each general letter folder, followed by the word "also" and a list of more names beginning with that letter. These are correspondents who are not in the general folder but have folders of their own. The individual folders are filmed **after** the general letter folder. Disappointingly, there is no index to the surnames contained within the letters. Study the surname data in the *Genealogical Folders* for clues to names of relevant correspondents.

Using the Andrea Collection is straightforward. Consult the finding aid to determine the folder numbers of any surnames of interest and note the reel numbers which contain them. Go to microfilm cabinet #34, and in drawer #1 you should find the reel(s) you need.

Because indexing is minimal, this is not a collection that can be used hurriedly. The amount of material in each folder differs greatly. If the folder you are using only

contains eight pages, that may not be a long research session. But if your surname encompasses several folders, some of which can contain over 200 pages, the information can quickly become overwhelming. Be aware that each document varies in content and readability. Plan to take the time to read and study carefully.

For some time I have been searching for my ancestor Joel McClendon's parentage. Knowing from other research that there were supposed to be McClendon files in the Andrea Collection, I chose that surname as my "test case" to learn how to use the collection. It proved to be a fortuitous decision.

According to the printed guide, there should be seven McClendon folders, numbered 547-553. On the film, the last McClendon folder I found was 552. The handwritten index at the front of reel 1 confirmed that 552 is the last McClendon folder. Folder 553 contains information on the surname McClimon. So, it is a good idea to check both guides before doing your research.

The six McClendon folders contain a total of 455 pages of material, ranging from Andrea's own research reports to information sent to him by clients. Many of the typescript pages are very faint and hard to read. After awhile, faced with such an abundance of data, I went into information overload. I had found a few promising references to my Joel McClendon and resolved to come back at a future date for in-depth study. But I continued scanning the contents of each folder, just to see what types of documents were there. While reading the sixth folder, labeled "Miscellany and Unclassified Data," a few pages went by that suddenly caught my eye. I had recognized my great-aunt's handwriting! I stopped the film for a closer look, and sure enough, there in my aunt's own hand, were not only our McClendon lineage (back to the immigrant!) but also her notes on our Owen lineage. (Joel McClendon's daughter married an Owen.) A few pages later was my great-aunt's cover letter dated April 12, 1959, explaining what she had sent. What a treasure!

Now I wondered if there might be more letters from my aunt, Sallie Glasscock Giberson, in the correspondence files. So I headed straight for the "G" reel. I was puzzled not to find her name listed on the "G" folder. Luckily, this was when I decided to see if there was an index on the first reel and discovered the "also" lists. After the general "G" folder, the "also" list included an entry for "Giberson, Sallie G." When I returned to the "G" reel, I then found the folder devoted to her correspondence, with dates ranging from 1958 to 1962. I had hit the "mother lode"!

I certainly can't promise that everyone will have this kind of luck, but I do advise anyone with Southern ancestry to take the time to explore the Leonardo Andrea Collection.

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- "The Andrea Collection." *Idaho Genealogical Society Quarterly* 17 (October 1974): 88.
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Ball Family Research Notebooks

Clayton Library recently acquired the 15-volume set of manuscript notes on the James Ball research project. If you would like to see, first-hand, how some of the best genealogists in the country go about the "nuts and bolts" of their profession, you should browse through this set. The data collected in the "Ball Notebooks" was the result of a research project undertaken by Robert C. Ball with professional support from a team of researchers that included Elizabeth Shown Mills, C.G., F.A.S.G.; Sharon Sholars Brown, C.G.; and other noted genealogists. Much of this research was the basis of the Mills and Brown article, "In Search of 'Mr. Ball': An Exercise in Finding Fathers," which appeared in the June 1992 issue (vol. 80, no. 2) of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

The 15-volume set is contained in 20 notebooks that are generally arranged according to the states in which the research was undertaken. These include Virginia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas. Notebook 19 (vol. 14) contains a summary/analysis of the Ball research project, and notebook 20 (vol. 15) contains the working notes of Donna Mills Lennon, author of *Some Southern Balls...* (Orlando, Florida: Mills Historical Press, 1993) (929.2 M657 BALL). The Ball Notebooks, not titled as a set but as individual volumes, are currently shelved in the new-books area. They will eventually be placed in the family histories collection. The call number is B187 BALL FAM. ■

□ CANDIDATE ACQUISITIONS



Laws of the King

By Robert de Berardinis, OMPL

Those researchers with interests in the French colonies of North America will be pleased with the Library's recent acquisition of resources related to that area. [See the article beginning on page 3.] Two additional reference works recently came to the author's attention, and he recommends that they also be acquired, one is currently in print, the other will soon be reprinted.

The first of these is the French reference work by Odile Krakovitch, *Arrêts, déclarations, édits, et ordonnances concernant les colonies, 1666-1779: Inventaire analytique de la série Colonies A* (Paris: Archives Nationales, 1993).¹ This book will be a great benefit to individuals doing family history research on ancestors from French Canada, Acadia, the French Caribbean Islands, Guyana, and Louisiana (the French Mississippi Valley). In the work, Krakovitch lists all of the laws and decrees of the French monarchs preserved in the Paris and Aix-en-Provence repositories of the French National Archives for the period 1666 to 1779 (series A) and includes a 98-page index of people and place names (something that is very helpful for non-French-speaking researchers). Krakovitch should be used in complement with the equally valuable work by Lawrence C. Wroth and Gertrude Annan, *Acts of French Royal Administration Concerning Canada, Guiana, the West Indies and Louisiana, Prior to 1791* (New York: N.Y. Public Library, 1930).² Together, these two books cover most of the known French laws concerning the colonies for the period 1540 to 1791.³

Why would lists of French laws be of interest to genealogical researchers? The most important reason is that official acts of the French monarch were, by definition, law. And such laws were used to accomplish even routine actions, e.g., to reimburse the expenses of military officers, to grant permission to trap, or to license trade with the Indians. In each such act, the King's decisions

were carefully recorded. Krakovitch's *Inventaire analytique* and Wroth's *Acts* provide abstracts and citations for these recordings. Although the abstracts provided by Krakovitch and Wroth may be limited to 20 or 30 words—usually just the title of the law or *préambule*—the text of the actual law can run as many as 40 or 50 pages. The provinces of Canada (*Nouvelle France*) until 1763; Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Maine (*Acadie*) until 1705; Cape Breton Island (*Louisbourg*) until 1748; Haiti (*St-Domingue*) until 1791,⁴ and the Mississippi Valley (*Louisiane*) until 1763 were the French equivalents of English crown colonies. Thus, many administrative rulings and directions covering activities of individual colonists will be found in these two works. For researchers with ancestors who served in the French military or colonial government (as *ordonnateur*, *intendant*, *ingénieur*, etc.), the books are very important, as such officials are frequently mentioned in the acts. In *Inventaire analytique*, Krakovitch provides archival citations directly to the primary record, that is, the original document preserved in French archives. To obtain copies of acts listed by Krakovitch, researchers can write directly to the Archives Nationales⁵ or to that archive's microfilm agent, the Société d'Ingénierie et de Microfilmage.⁶ In *Acts*, Wroth provides bibliographic citations to printed sources that contain full-text transcriptions of the laws.⁷

Following are two examples that demonstrate how to use the Krakovitch and Wroth texts for family research. The first example concerns one Jean-Philippe Goujon de Grondel, lieutenant (later captain) of the 4th Company of the Swiss Regiment of Karrer/Hallwyl in Louisiana. In Krakovitch's index, one finds nothing listed under Goujon, de Grondel, or Grondel. There are, however, on page 432, seven acts concerning the Swiss Regiment of Hallwyl, and on page 466, twelve acts concerning the Swiss Regiment of Karrer with three cross-references. On page 474,

there are forty-five acts and five cross-references listed under "soldat," and on page 479, there is a quarter page of references to troops.

Checking the first two sets of references (from pages 432 and 466), one finds the following:

- A roster of the regiment and postings dated 5 FEB 1726 (A 1, F^o 229, n^o 4)⁸
- A roster by the regimental colonel of the regiment to Navy Minister Maurepas dated 25 SEP 1731 (A 2, F^o 124, n^o 15)
- An order transferring the regiment to the navy minister, dated 9 OCT 1731 (A 2, F^o 132, n^o 16)
- A roster by the regimental colonel of the regiment in the colonies to Navy Minister Rouillé, dated 1 FEB 1752 (A 5, F^o 261, n^o 15)
- Orders concerning the regiment, its composition, and operating orders in the colonies, dated 1 FEB 1752 (A 5, F^o 261, n^o 16)⁹
- Payment fixed and paid to reimburse Wurstein, a Swiss officer, who paid Pierre Girouard for transporting Acadian families by boat, dated 1 AUG 1766 (A 10, F^o 937, n^o 98).

Thus, the researcher has several candidate documents in which to search for Jean-Philippe Goujon de Grondel. There is the unexpected bonus of finding Acadians being transported somewhere in 1766. (An examination of the full act revealed that the person who was paid, Pierre Girouard, was also an Acadian.)

In the index in Wroth, there is also no mention of Goujon, de Grondel, or Grondel. There are, however, several references under "military." These are:

- An order transferring the Swiss Regiment to the navy minister, dated 9 OCT 1731 (Marine, A 2, 26, F^o 337)
- An order transferring the Swiss Regiment to the navy minister, dated 1 SEP 1752, copy, NYPL, Moreau St. Mère, iv, 104-06
- An act concerning the official nature of the Swiss Regiment of Hallwyl, dated 1 JUN 1763, (Marine, A 1, 98, no. 10)

Between Krakovitch and Wroth, the researcher now has a total of nine acts that may provide information on Jean-Philippe Goujon de Grondel. Note also that Wroth cites one act that is available, as a transcription, from the New York Public Library, a source that is more convenient and less expensive to deal with than the Archives Nationales.

The second example concerns Acadian research, an area that often frustrates researchers because of the relatively small amount of source material, aside from ship lists.¹⁰ Starting again with Krakovitch's index, one finds twenty-one citations on page 397 under "Acadiens" and a cross-reference to "Canada." Sixteen of these concern expenses incurred in moving Acadians to Louisiana from Beauséjour, Rivière St-Jean, etc. Several Acadian family names are found in the index, including those of La Tour (also de St-Étienne de la Tour), Le Borgne, Demuy, Hébert, Terriau (also Terriot), and Joseph Le Blanc. In Wroth's index, one finds fifteen references under the word "Acadie" and twenty-eight additional references under "Isle de Cap Breton." Wroth also mentions several Acadian families, including those of Aulnay Charnisay, Damours de Freneuze, and Saint-Étienne.

Using the de St-Étienne de la Tour reference from Krakovitch, one finds:

- An order that the [de St-Étienne] de la Tour family is confirmed in their ownership rights as well as fishing rights to Cap Sable in Acadia, which cites earlier laws concerning this, dated 20 MAR 1703, (A 21, F^o 85, n^o 72)

Using the de Saint-Étienne de la Tour reference from Wroth, one finds:

- Letters of Patent confirming Charles de Saint-Étienne, Sieur de la Tour, as proprietor of Acadia and as chief governmental official, dated 25 FEB 1651 (Harrisse, no. 498) from *Mémoires des Commissaires du Roi et de ceux de Sa Majesté Britannique, Sur les possessions & les droits respectifs des deux Couronnes en Amérique; Avec les Actes publics & Pièces justificatives. Tome Second, Contenant les Traités & Actes publics concernant l'Amérique en général, & les Pièces justificatives des Mémoires sur les limites de l'Acadie*, 4 vols. (Paris: Royal Printers, 1755)

An English translation of this latter document is found in the Sabin Collection at Fondren Library, Rice University (E 12.L68).¹¹ Descendants of Charles de St-Étienne de la Tour will find the act to be especially interesting, as it gives genealogical and biographical information on de La Tour and on Emmanuel Le Borgne, *père*, and Charles de Ménou d'Aulnay.

As is evident from the examples shown above, a few minutes of research using the indexes to Krakovitch and Wroth can give the researcher many new leads to follow in investigating ancestors in French speaking North America. CLF members wishing to contribute funds for the purchase of these reference works are invited to contact John Dorroh, CLF acquisitions coordinator, at (713) 781-2741.

End Notes

1. In translation, *Acts, Declarations, Edicts, and Ordinances Concerning the Colonies, 1666-1779: Analytical Inventory of Colonies Series A*.

2. Provincial Press of Lafayette, Louisiana, is preparing a reprint of this book for release this summer or fall. Locally, a copy of Wroth is on the shelves at Fondren Library, Rice University (Z 2187.C7 W8).

3. For the period 1743 to 1753, during which Vaudreuil was governor of the Province of Louisiana, researchers should also consult Bill Barron's *The Vaudreuil Papers* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1975) (976.3 B277LA). Barron's work includes a detailed calendar of the Vaudreuil papers plus an index that actually includes many of the names found in the papers themselves. Originals are archived at The Huntington Library, and copies of individual documents can be obtained by writing to the library (The Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108).

4. French control of *St-Domingue* continued for another ten years or so, but the nature of France's monarchy changed after 1789, the year of Revolution.

5. When writing to the Archives Nationales, it is important to do three things: 1) write the letter in French, 2) enclose enough International Response Coupons (IRCs) to cover the administrative expense of the (hoped for) reply, and 3) provide an exact citation for the document you need and, if available, enclose a photocopy of the citation from Krakovitch, circled in red. IRCs can be purchased at most U.S. post offices for \$1.05 each. Typically, five coupons will cover the cost of returning up to about 10 photocopied pages. The author usually sends more coupons than are necessary, as the French return those that are in excess of their costs. Write to one of the following addresses (either will suffice): Les Archives Nationales, 29-31, quai Voltaire, 75344 PARIS Cedex, FRANCE; or CARAN, Service de la Recherche, 60, rue des Francs-Bourgeois, 75141 PARIS Cedex 03, FRANCE. It has been the author's experience that less than half of the requests made to the Archives Nationales actually produce copies of requested documents. With this in mind, be sure to cite very specifically the document you want copied. The staff at the Archives Nationales will *not* do research for you.

Sample Letter:

Cher Monsieur,

Je voudrais une photocopie de cet acte entier (ci-joint), A 21, F^o 85, n^o 72, 20 MAR 1703. J'espère que vous auriez les temps me rendre ce grand service. Si la somme de mes coupons n'est pas suffite, combien est-ce? Je vous prie d'agr er, Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments distingu es,

[signature]

6. The Soci t  d'Ing nierie et de Microfilmage follows a different process than that of the Archives Nationales. First, in response to your specific inquiry, they will usually return only a cost quote (in French Francs). After you receive the quote and return payment, they will send the requested material. Occasionally, if the item you are requesting is small (under 10 pages), the Soci t  will simply send the material and enclose a payment-due invoice. When writing to the Soci t  it is not necessary to send IRCs; however, as with the Archives Nationales, it is very important to provide an accurate citation. If possible, enclose a photocopy of the citation from Krakovitch, circled in red. Write to: Soci t  d'Ing nierie et de Microfilmage, 174, rue Paul et Camille Thomoux, 93330 NEUILLY sur MARNE, FRANCE. For the past several years, microfilm costs about 50¢ per page.

Sample letter:

Cher Monsieur,

Je voudrais combien est-ce pour microfilm de cet acte entier (ci-joint), A 21, F^o 85, n^o 72, 20 MAR 1703? Je vous prie d'agr er, Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments distingu es,

[signature]

7. Many of the published works cited by Wroth are available through inter-library loan. Clayton Library staff members can provide details on how that process works.

8. The archival reference notation, "F^o," is often written in bibliographies and footnotes or endnotes as "fol." and means folio. Similarly, n^o is often written in bibliographies and footnotes or endnotes as "No." and means number [of the document].

9. *Capitulations* will sometimes give the names of officers or the names of both officers and soldiers, but they will always give a breakdown of how many officers and soldiers are authorized. A *capitulation* coming from the colonies to Paris is almost always a complete listing of officers, sometimes officers and soldiers.

10. Although Clayton possesses as fine a collection of published material as anywhere, including Salt Lake City, much of the original material needed for direct evidence is not available. For more on original and published translations of direct evidence for Acadian genealogy, see Robert de Berardinis, "Introduction" to Winston De Ville, F.A.S.G., *The East Coast of Acadia in 1708* (Lafayette, LA: Provincial Press, 1999).

11. The Sabin Collection (on microform) contains a large number of public documents from the colonial period in North America, and researchers should check this source first when looking for older printed material related to the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean.



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