



THE Clayton Advocate

NEWSLETTER OF THE CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

Officers

President

Alice Braud-Jones

1st Vice President

Patricia Phillips

2nd Vice President

Sheila Turner

Secretary

Donald Teter

Treasurer

Ed Harris

Directors

Acquisitions

Karen Ladd Acker

Construction-Facilities

Maintenance

Charlie Gardes

Newsletter Editor

Kay Kopycinski

Volunteer Coordinator

Sam Lusk

Website Technology

Barbara Shreffler

Public Relations Programs

Nick Sorensen

Clayton Library

Manager

Susan Kaufman

Assistant Manager

Lesley Douthwaite



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Clayton Library Friends: Hopefully CLF members have had a productive summer with respect to genealogical research. It is always gratifying to discover a new clue or to confirm a previously suspected event in our family history. This summer I had the pleasure of discovering a new book on the "Last Island Storm", which decimated south Louisiana in 1856.

The publication opened a previously unknown portal on an event in our family's history. "Island In A Storm", authored by Abby Sallenger, a learned scientist and gifted author, is a mesmerizing account of geological, meteorological and oceanographic events which culminated in the waning days of summer, August 1856, to geographically alter the southern coast of Louisiana. Sallenger believes that this nineteenth century disaster was an early indication of global warming.

The Pelican State's wealthiest entrepreneurs and planters, along with their families, were in the habit of escaping the heat and "tropical disease" (yellow fever) so

prevalent in those days, by traveling to "Isle Derniere", a barrier island about 70 miles south of New Orleans. With



virtually no understanding of the area's long history of flooding, storm surges, or meteorological clues, they remained on the island through what they expected would be only severe thunderstorms. Their hotel, cabins, and the local

continued on page 2

What's Inside:

<i>Financial Report</i>	2
<i>Program & Speaker</i>	3
<i>Acquisitions Committee Report</i>	3
<i>Manager's Message</i>	4
<i>Welcome New Members</i>	4
<i>Renovation Report</i>	5
<i>Membership Report</i>	5
<i>2010 Slate of Nominees</i>	6,7
<i>Thank You Volunteers</i>	7
<i>Angels Report</i>	8
<i>Research Advice</i>	9
<i>Books Just Arrived</i>	10
<i>Volunteer Corner</i>	11
<i>Goodbye & Farewell</i>	11
<i>CLF Represented</i>	11

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Clayton Library Friends Statement of Activities

January 1, 2009 - September 30, 2009

Income

Unrestricted Contributions	43,142.00
Temporarily Restricted	13,484.00
Renovation Project	8,770.00
Membership Dues	12,245.00
Interest and Dividend Income	223.00
Seminar Ticket Sales	1,956.00
Other Income	63.00

Total Revenue	\$ 81,883.00
----------------------	---------------------

Expenses

Current Programs	89,925.00
Administrative & General	8,368.00

Total Expenditures	\$ 98,293.00
---------------------------	---------------------

Net Operating Revenue	(16,410.00)
-----------------------	-------------

Clayton Library Friends Statement of Financial Position As of September 30, 2009

ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank Accounts	384,707.00
Accounts Receivable	110,045.00
Other Current Assets	2,465.00

Total Current Assets	\$ 497,271.00
-----------------------------	----------------------

Other Assets	821,463.00
---------------------	-------------------

TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,318,680.00
---------------------	------------------------

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	325.00
Other Current Liabilities	271.00

Total Liabilities	\$ 596.00
--------------------------	------------------

Equity	1,318,084.00
---------------	---------------------

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 1,318,680.00
-------------------------------------	------------------------

Ed Harris

President's Message

boarding house were ravaged for several days by what was then known as "Force 12" winds. A Force 12 wind was one that was described as a "sail splitter" and exceeded 150 mph; roughly equivalent to a Category 5 hurricane. Most on the island perished, and unfortunately were not even known to be in danger for several days, due to the storm's track. Sallenger's impeccable and extensive research makes for great reading and, much to my surprise, rendered a new clue to a well known event in the life of my 2nd great-grandfather, who was thought to have perished in the "Last Island Storm". Thankfully, his life was spared and he lived another 30 years.

This discovery leads me to recommend that genealogists carefully dissect, not only the myriad of county histories and genealogical society publications when seeking family history, but to also think "out of the box" and delve into other types of events surrounding a geographical location, including natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, etc., as well as crop blights which may have led to relocation, and the plethora of diseases and plagues which annihilated entire communities. And, if you had relatives in south Louisiana in the 1850's, locate a copy of "*Island In A Storm*" which mentions by name many of the families who were on "Isle Derniere" and identifies many of the various ships' crews who responded to and/or were engaged in rescue attempts. Thanks to my friend Winston DeVille for his recommendation of this excellent tome, and to Abby Sallenger for his early response to my queries regarding his research.

On November 14th, noted archeologist and genealogist Bruce Lockett will speak about the genealogy of the Atakapa of this area. Since Hurricane Ike, Bruce and his TASA associates have been engaged in significant archeological discovery along the Texas coast. He promises to bring never-before-seen specimens and invites attendees to bring a camera.

The Atakapa Indians



Bruce Lockett

**TOPIC: ATAKAPA
Indians their part in
genealogy then and
today**

Bruce Lockett will be speaking, November 14th at Clayton Library's Carriage House, on the impact the Atakapa Indian had on the area where we live and how the Indian blood line still runs in us today.

The Atakapa was the purest of the Indians. Their life style indicates how our adaptation was made to America because of the Indian and why we need to know and understand the Indians of the Texas Coast. Where we live today, the Atakapa Indians lived before us.

Bruce Lockett is Director of Texas Archeology Study Association (TASA), and President of the Vidor Historical Society. TASA finds and documents Atakapa villages, campsites and the artifacts found there. In addition, they find and research shipwrecks and Civil War plantation sites.

Bruce has something very special for us. Bring your Camera!

Acquisitions Committee

The Acquisitions Committee has made three fairly large purchases this quarter. First, we added forty-three books of baptism and marriage records for New Mexico, which we purchased from the Hispanic Genealogical Research Center. We are happy to be able to provide these resources for a border state. Second, we were pleased to be able to take advantage of a microfilm sale offered by ProQuest. We purchased 273 rolls of New York Passenger List microfilm, part of the T 715 series, which corresponds with the *Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, June 16, 1897 – June 30, 1902* already owned by the Library. The cost of this film was \$14.25 per roll, a great savings over the \$85 per roll cost from the National Archives.

Third, our acquisition of Confederate pension records continues. Confederate pension records for Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee have been received. We received permission from the Library of Virginia to purchase the Virginia Confederate Pension Records from the Genealogical Society of Utah, and GSU has agreed to make copies for us. The cost of the 213 reels of Virginia Confederate pensions will be \$10,650. We have exceeded this year's \$20,000 budgeted for the Confederate pension records by about \$1800, but we are pleased to be able to add these records before the

price of microfilm increases even more.

Just a reminder about all the new materials we are getting. When our orders come in they have to be sent to the Central Library for cataloging. This process can take quite a while at times, so we need to remember to be patient. The material will eventually make it back to Clayton and in the meantime, we can anticipate all the opportunities for new discoveries that will be provided when it arrives.

Our donations to Clayton's family history collection through solicitations made by Clayton Library Friends have slowed, much like the economy. However, we are pleased to have received the following books this quarter. For information on purchasing a personal copy of either of these family history books, contact Karen Acker, tkacker@cebridge.net.

The German Migration to Missouri by Paul C. Nagel (This is a genealogy of Mr. Nagel's family.)

Wright Family: Walter and Susannah Wright: Nine Generations and Allied Families for One Line of Descent and Their Lives, Loves, Labors, and Travels in New England, New York, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Illinois by Clara Jo "Rebecca" Wright.

Karen Ladd Acker

Manager's Message



Using your Houston Public Library card can open a world of information to you from home! The Houston Public Library card isn't called the "Powercard" for nothing. With this card, available at any HPL locations, you can access not only genealogy databases from home, but other databases subscribed to by HPL that can benefit your research.

Visit www.houstonlibrary.org to access these databases. Then click on the "research" link located at the top of the page, and then from the menu on the left "databases by category" and then "genealogy". Here you find the list of genealogically related databases that can be accessed for research. From home look for the "*" indicating that an HPL Powercard is needed to utilize these specific resources. Genealogy databases include: HeritageQuest which offers United States Federal Population Censuses, PERSI – The Periodical Source Index (an index to genealogy periodicals), Revolutionary War Era Pension Files, and much more. Other databases include: 19th Century Digital Newspaper Archive, African American Biographical Source, American Civil War database, the Dallas Morning News Archive (1885-1977), the New York Times newspaper historical archive, and ProQuest Obituaries which cover over 10.5 million obituaries from top United States Newspapers.

However, don't stop there. The Houston Public Library subscribes to more than 400 databases and with a little creativity, other subjects and the databases within those categories can be used for background research. Visit the "literature" link and scroll down to the "JSTOR". Looking for an article from the William and Mary Quarterly? You will find digital copies of

that magazine here? This scholarly journal article database can be used not only for the William and Mary Quarterly, but also the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 1893 – 2005. Clicking on the title of the periodical will bring up the home page of the periodical. A search for the surname "Tavenner" brings up 9 matches including "Roll of Honor: Virginians who Have Died in the War for Freedom" (vol.26 no.4, (Oct. 1918). JSTOR offers a title list and list by discipline which can be browsed. Although most are not what we as family history researchers consider genealogically relevant titles such as "Journal of the Early Republic" (listed under "History" as a discipline) is a quarterly journal committed to publishing the best scholarship on the history and culture of the United States in the years of the early republic (1776-1861).

Other databases include the Handbook of Texas History, Texas Sanborn Digital Maps (Houston and Texas category, Sanborn maps also available in Genealogy), American Civil War: Letters and Diaries (History and Social Sciences category), and many more.

Time is well spent looking through many of the database links available from the Houston Public Library and available for FREE with your Houston Public Library Powercard. As with many research sources, keeping the blinders on, thinking "everything I need is on the genealogy research database page or in the genealogy library," you will be shorting your research and limiting the discoveries you might find when you look outside of the usual sources.

As always the staff at the Clayton library will be more than happy to help you discover the rich resources your Houston Public Library offers. Please stop in or call us!

Susan Kaufman

Welcome New Members

Clayton Library Friends would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members: **Mrs. Nancy Archer, Ms. Mazella Y. Boulden, Ms. Jackie Britton, Mr. & Mrs. Steve R. Cannon, Mr. & Mrs.**

Stephen D. Hahn, Ms. Carol Jean McDonald, Mr. Bennie Matusek, Ms. Lynne B. Ruth, Dr Patricia Taylor, Ms. Tracey Walsea, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth V. Weller, Mrs. Cyvia Wolff.

Renovation Report

The renovation of the Clayton House(s) involved CLF signing a two-part agreement with the City of Houston. The first part was the renovation of the three buildings that formed the Clayton home by CLF, and the second was providing equipment, furniture, and fixtures by the City. Many people, logically, believed that the project was completed with the ribbon cutting ceremony in March attended by Mayor White. That event only signified the completion of the first part of the project. The second part began last fall and still continues. It is not over yet!

During the course of the project and in several meetings, it was agreed that the City would be providing more than equipment, furniture, and fixtures and the areas involved would include the grounds as well as the main library building. CLF is grateful for this expansion of scope by the City.

The expanded scope includes such things as a new parking lot surface, re-working of meeting spaces in the main library, and washing of the exterior of the main library, all of which have been completed. Additionally, the roof of the main library will be replaced. Provision of the furniture is still on-going as well as several exterior modifications that have yet to begin.

Included in the exterior modifications is re-working or replacement of the sprinkler system in the parking lot median. It has been determined that the existing system must be replaced and will require demolition (or complete removal and replacement) of the pea gravel walkway dividing the median. That pea gravel walk is the location for the memorial pavers sold to raise money for the project. Currently, the City reports the sprinkler work should be completed in early November. Once this sprinkler work is completed, the memorial pavers will be installed in a new walkway.

It has been a learning process for library and City staff, as well as for CLF, to use these newly renovated facilities with their systems and equipment. Many of the “kinks” have been worked out, but the process continues. Several issues have been identified and will be scheduled for modification in the future. Despite this, the facilities have been used numerous times for meetings by genealogical and outside groups. That usage was part of the intent of the renovation and any and all organizations are encouraged and welcomed to utilize these meeting facilities. Please inform any groups or individuals intending to host an event about our “jewel” that can serve a multitude of functions!

Charlie Gardes

Membership Report

To all our "friends," we deeply appreciate your incredible loyalty, which has, once again made the year a successful one for CLF. Soon it will be time for our 2010 membership drive. If it seems that it's been a short membership year – it has been. In February the CLF membership agreed that for financial reasons it was better to have the fiscal year and the membership year coincide and so voted. We have great programs coming and many more new materials available, thanks to your generosity. Come and visit, bring a friend. It's a good way to spend some time together.

If you'd like to give without spending anything extra, don't wait for a dues reminder letter - go to the website to save time, and CLF the expense of sending out letters. Another way to give - print the CLF Newsletter from the members only site and receive it faster and save printing and postage. The holidays are a good time to make a donation in honor/memory of someone; a gift that will be appreciated by many for years to come. A CLF membership also makes a great gift for that person who has everything and keeps talking about “doing genealogy someday.”

Patricia Phillips

SLATE OF NOMINEES



Alice Braud-Jones
President



Patricia Phillips
1st Vice President



Ed Harris
Treasurer



Karen Ladd Acker
Director - Acquisitions

Sheila M. Turner - 2nd Vice President



Sheila Turner began her career as a fundraising specialist in 1996. Since that time, she has worked as a development consultant with Harriet Latimer & Associates, gaining outstanding capital campaign experience by working with over 50 different area nonprofit organizations (large and small). Through first-hand experience, she has developed a strong background in formulating compelling case statements and marketing materials, writing and securing major grants (including federal, national, state, and local), compiling data and results obtained through feasibility studies, and researching major prospects (including local, regional and national) using advanced technology and a variety of resources.

Her experience includes the areas of Healthcare and services, Human & Social Services, Youth Programs, Parks & Green-space, Education, Performing Arts, Historic Preservation, Literary Arts, Libraries, and Affordable Housing.

Sheila graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Houston-Downtown with a degree in Criminal Justice, a minor in Sociology and was the recipient of many scholastic and outstanding achievement awards. She is married to Benjamin B. Turner, III and has two grown children.

Mary Lou Gullett - Secretary



Mary Lou Gullett is a graduate of Sam Houston University with majors in Business and Spanish. Her professional career was primarily in oil and gas, having substantial tenures at Exxon and Superior Oil Company. Mary Lou is presently retired and lives with her husband Kenneth in West University Place.

Mary Lou is an active member of the Lady Washington Chapter of The National Society of The Daughters of The American Revolution where she now serves on the Lineage Committee and Chairs the Commemorative Events Committee.

Claudia Nickerson Grafton - Director - Volunteers



Claudia Grafton previously served on the CLF Board as Editor of the CLF Newsletter and recently organized the CLF Docent program which provides historical tours for the newly renovated Clayton facilities. She has pursued a lifelong commitment of volunteer and community service through such organizations as the Girl Scouts (Council positions), American Red Cross, and the Master Gardener Association for both Harris and Galveston Counties. Claudia is an active member in numerous historical and genealogical groups and remains involved with the Clayton, Freeman, and Rosenberg Libraries.

Henry R. "Hank" Wenzler, III - Director - City Liaison



Henry R. "Hank" Wenzler, III has been pursuing his family history since 1990. After 31 years with Eastman Kodak, he began this pursuit in earnest. He has traveled extensively to trace his family records and has succeeded in tracing his family "Wenzler" back to Frittlingen Germany to 1580. He is currently writing a narrative history of the family with tutelage from Charles Gardes.

Hank is a graduate of Memphis State University with a B.S. in Marketing and minors in History and Management. He pursued an MBA at the Univ. of Hawaii. Hank is also a retired Commander, from the U.S. Navy with expertise in Naval Air Intelligence and Photography. After Kodak, Hank worked seven years for Service Brokerage in the retail and wholesale food business.

A few of his many community activities include: Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, Past Chairman of the SJV Parish Council, Past Chairman of the Willow Fork Country Club Advisory Council, Parish Photographer at St. John Vianney, and Secretary of Fort Bend Emergency Services District No. 1 Board. Hank has been a member of CFL for the past three years and is looking forward to serving on the CFL Board.

SLATE OF NOMINEES

Pat Metcalfe - Director - Newsletter



Pat Metcalfe was CLF president in 1998 and 1999, and served in several other board positions in 1997, 2001, and 2002. She has been a proof-reader for *CLF Newsletter* and *The Clayton Advocate* for ten of the last fourteen years, and is a former editor of the *HGF Newsletter* and HGF's quarterly *The Genealogical Record*.

Having retired from three professions (college teacher, counselor, and small business owner) Pat is now involved even more deeply in genealogy. She enjoys working with friends to find new resources for their family histories, thus increasing her knowledge of other regions. Her on-going genealogical challenge? Like many other genealogists, Pat and her husband Jack both have g-g-grandfathers who apparently had 'no parents and no siblings'. Pat is looking forward to returning to participation on the CLF board.

Kay Kopycinski - Director - Website



Kay Warren Kopycinski is a native Texan and graduate of the University of Houston at Clear Lake. Her work history is varied, including Montessori teacher, charter sail boat owner/operator, bookkeeper, oil royalty heirs researcher. She became interested in genealogy after

receiving a family history, Farrar Memorabilia, written by a cousin and discovering that her mother's attic contained hundreds of letters, documents and photographs dated from the mid-1800's. She has attended both national conventions and local genealogy seminars. Kay was president of the Houston Genealogical Forum 2006-2007 and editor of the Houston Genealogical Record 2005-2007.

Nick Sorensen - Director - Fundraising



Nick joined the CLF board in 2005 by appointment of the CLF Board of Directors. He served as a member of the Renovation Committee and was elected President of CLF in 2006. Nick is an attorney and has been in private practice for almost 20 years. he grew up in Las Vegas, attended college at Brigham Young

University's Reuben Clark Law School. His first year out of law school he was a judicial clerk for the Honorable Roger D. Foley, in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. Following his clerkship, Nick was associated with the law firm of Shannon & Ustick from 1988 until 1990, and then joined Johnson and Gibbs where he practiced until joining Porter and Hedges, L.L.P. in 1995.

Thank You 2009 Volunteers!

Clayton Library's volunteers perform a wide variety of important tasks, including shelving, shelf reading, inventories, catalog checking, providing reference desk support, writing thank you letters, coordinating volunteers, acquiring library materials, fundraising, editing the CLF newsletter, maintaining the CLF website, overseeing Clayton building renovations, serving on the CLF Board, and many other special projects. The staff of the library is grateful for the support of our volunteers, and the upcoming Halloween Lock-In is just one small way for the staff to say thank you for all the time and effort that our volunteers have contributed to the library.

The following individuals have logged volunteer hours with the library in 2009: Karen Acker, Kathryn Black-Morrow, Virginia Blalock, Joy Cowen, John Coyle, Wally

Davenport, Ruby Dusek, Norma Eriksen, Cathy Fitch, Charlie Gardes, Claudia Grafton, Sammie Graves, Liz Hicks, Sam Lusk, Jean McLeod, Audrey Middlebrooke, Rosemary Mullin, Janice Shultz, Harold Spangler, Ginny Toney, Hank Wenzler, Winona Wilkinson, and Gary & Robin Willis. A special thank you to our 2009 LDS digitization volunteers: Cam and Ed Greenwood, Bob and Mary Hayward, Douglas and Nancy Hamilton, Donaji & Henry Stelzig, Renee Ball, Darol Dimmick, Siria Flynn, Stephen Mayer, and Evadean Waite. We know there are many others not listed above who have given their time to the library while volunteering from home or in some other manner. We welcome and encourage all volunteers to log their hours in the volunteer timesheet book so that they can receive the acknowledgement and recognition that they deserve. To all of our volunteers – thank you for everything you do!



Angels Report

Liz Hicks

The Angel Program was created in 1994 to provide funds for periodicals Clayton Library would like to receive, but that are in excess of their periodical budget. Donations can be made in memory or honor of someone(s) and will be acknowledged in *The Clayton Advocate*. Upon request, a bookplate can be placed in the bound periodicals at the end of the year. Donations for binding are also needed.

The continuing generosity of "Angels" **Emile Bussemey, Alfred "Al" Davis IV, Walter McCaine, Jr., and Mrs. Ann Wrenn** has allowed CLF to acquire 2009 subscriptions and missing back issues for *South Dakota Genealogy Society Quarterly*, *Les Voyageurs*, *Rhode Island Roots*, *Flint Genealogy Society Quarterly* (MI), *Irish Roots*, *Idaho Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *Clarke Co. Historical & Genealogy Society* (AL), *Wisconsin State Genealogy Society Newsletter*, *Families* (Ontario Genealogy Society), and a donation for binding.

In addition, we would like to thank **Gordon C. La Grange** for his donation for a 2010 subscription to *Les Voyageurs* (German Acadian Coast Hist. & Gen. Soc.) in memory of **Stephen Charles La Grange**.

Angels are needed NOW for 2010 - Subscriptions should be renewed before December 31, 2009

<i>Argyll Colony Plus</i> (NC) Scottish Heritage \$30.00	<i>Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> \$30.00
<i>Arkansas Family Historian</i> \$25.00	<i>Internet Genealogy</i> \$28.00
<i>Blue Grass Roots</i> (KY) \$20.00	<i>Journal of the Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society</i> \$35.00
<i>Carolina Herald and Newsletter</i> (SC) \$8.00	<i>Kith 'n Kin</i> (Sandusky, OH) \$10.00
<i>Central Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> \$25.00	<i>Le Raconteur</i> (AL) \$15.00
<i>Chicago Genealogist</i> \$25.00	<i>MASOG Journal & Past Times</i> (Massachusetts Society of Genealogists) \$25.00
<i>Clarke County Historical & Gen. Society Quarterly</i> (AL) \$20.00	<i>Maine Genealogist</i> \$20.00
<i>Families</i> (Ontario Genealogical Society-Canada) \$45.00	<i>Marissa Hist. & Gen. Society</i> (IL) \$20.00
<i>Family Tree Magazine & CD monthly</i> , (UK) \$120.00/yr.	<i>Northeast Mississippi Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> \$20.00
<i>Flint Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> (MI) \$15.00	<i>Ohio Records & Pioneer Families</i> \$20.00
<i>Foothills Inquirer</i> (CO) \$15.00	<i>Rhode Island Roots</i> \$25.00
<i>Genie</i> (Ark-LA-TX Association) \$20.00	<i>Ross County Genealogical Society Newsletter</i> (OH) \$15.00
<i>Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> (statewide) \$35.00	<i>St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> (MO) \$35.00
<i>Georgia Settlers</i> (multiple east GA counties) \$20.00	<i>South Dakota Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> \$23.00
<i>Goingsnake Messenger</i> (Cherokee-Oklahoma) \$15.00	<i>Tap Roots</i> (East Alabama Genealogical Society) \$25.00
<i>Greenville County Genealogical Soc. Journal</i> (SC) \$21.00	<i>The Times</i> (Central NC) \$20.00
<i>Houston History</i> (UH Center for Public History) \$25.00	<i>Topeka Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> (KS) \$25.00
<i>Idaho Genealogical Society Journal</i> \$19.00	<i>Wisconsin State Genealogy Society Newsletter</i> \$30.00

Please contact **Liz Hicks** at (713) 944-1118 or e-mail: erootrot@usa.net if you wish to earn your **WINGS**. Make checks payable to **CLF**, and mail to P.O. Box 271078, Houston, TX 77277-1078, attn: Liz Hicks.

Research Advice from Literary Sleuths

Successful genealogists work methodically in cycles of “plan, research, and evaluate.” Literary sleuths, especially Hercule Poirot, Sherlock Holmes, and Miss Marple, offer good advice for working through this process.

Hercule Poirot advised: “To work with method, one must begin from the beginning.” Researching a new ancestor is a beginning that requires you to define and organize your effort. Poirot chastised one detective: “Ah—but it is impossible, the way you never ask the right questions! As a result you know nothing of what is important.” Beginning a new search, you must assemble what you already know so you can ask appropriate research questions.

Genealogists research in the context of time and place. As Poirot advised, “We must map out our plan of campaign.” Such planning includes creating a chronology of ancestral facts and locations of known events. This step identifies places and sources where you might learn more. List potential ancestral activities that may have generated records, including land ownership and sales, marriage, probate and tax records, censuses, and military service.

During research, watch for hidden clues and be as thorough as possible. Samuel Clemens, as a detective in a novel, advised, “Find out anything you can; we don’t know what’ll be

useful.” The fictional English sleuth Lord Peter Wimsey wisely asked, “Who’s the next of kin?” After all, genealogists often progress by studying an ancestor’s relatives to learn more about the target person.

Research means that facts must override hearsay and undocumented family trees. Sherlock Holmes exclaimed, “Data! Data! Data! I can’t make bricks without clay. ...I have no data yet. It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts.”

Usually, the best evidence is in original documents, created at the time of the events they report. Holmes agreed: “There is nothing like first-hand evidence.” Also, what you don’t find may be important. As Poirot commented, “That is negative evidence, but it is evidence.”

Assumptions are hazardous to research. Miss Marple warned, “You’ve fallen into the trap again...believing what is said to you. ...I make it a rule to take nothing that is told to me as true, unless it is *checked*.” Poirot agreed: “To solve any problem, one must have the *facts*.” Holmes advised, “Never trust to general impressions, my boy, but concentrate yourself upon details.”

Genealogists must document

every fact by recording specifically the source from which it came. Holmes demanded, “Where did you get it? Pray be precise as to details.” Poirot added, “Be exact, my friend.”

Continually scrutinize what you’ve found or not found, even the smallest details, so you can plan the next step. Poirot advised, “Reflect on it.” What new clues have you found? What could they mean? If you’re not finding new data, perhaps the time or place is wrong; maybe the ancestor was elsewhere.

About evaluation, Poirot remarked, “To see things with your own eyes ... is not always to see the truth. One must see with the eyes of the mind,...the little cells of gray!” Miss Marple added, “If you don’t see what a thing means, you must be looking at it wrong way round, unless of course you haven’t got full information.”

How do you know if you’ve answered your questions? Holmes said the explanation is more than mere speculation: “It is the only hypothesis which covers the facts.” Poirot added, “To be sure means that when the right solution is reached, everything falls into place. You perceive that in no other way could things have happened.”

Try using the advice from these sleuths. They may help you become a wiser and more successful researcher.

Emily A. Croom

(Originally published in *Family Chronicle* magazine, February 2009. Reprinted with permission of *Family Chronicle*)

Books Just Arrived

- 100 years of discipleship: First Christian Church, Lufkin, Texas, 1894-1994*
- Ancestral Voices of the Past*
- Ancestry of Diana Princess of Wales*
- Atlas & Plat Book Posey County, Indiana*
- Atlas of Irish History*
- Bellaire United Methodist Church, 1946-1990* [Harris County, Texas]
- Biography of a Particular Place: Bee County from the days of the Spanish Missions through September 11, 2001* [Texas]
- Blood Legacy: The True Story of the Snow Axe Murders* [Snow Family]
- Building a County: Van Zandt County, 1848-1992* [Texas]
- Bullitt County, Kentucky Marriage Records, 1797-1825*
- Butler County Marriages, March 1849 to December 1914* [Missouri]
- Butler County Marriages, January 1915 - December 1939* [Missouri]
- Butler County Marriages, January 1940 - December 1967* [Missouri]
- Cairo Community Heritage, 1886-1986* [Hall County, Nebraska]
- Cemeteries and Burial Plots of Cameron County, Pennsylvania*
- Cemeteries and Burial Plots of Elk County, Pennsylvania*
- Cemetery Records of Rockingham and Stokes Counties, North Carolina, volume two*
- Cleveland County, Oklahoma Marriages: Index to Marriage Books*
- Commitment to Public Service: The History of the Houston Bar Association* [Harris County, Texas]
- Comprehensive Listings of Cemeteries In and Around Surry County, North Carolina*
- Crabtree Family of Wayne County, West Virginia*
- Daddy said: Memories of an Old Van Zandt*
- Dallas County History - From the Ground Up* [Texas]
- Darwin M. Terwilliger-Ada A. Randall and Allied Lines, 1610-1988, 1840-1988*
- Descendants of Captain William Garrish and Joanna Lowell & the Descendants of Captain Walter Price and Elizabeth Gerrish*
- Early Marriage Records Meade County, South Dakota, three volumes*
- Early Marriage Records Pennington County, South Dakota, volumes one and two*
- Entwined: The Stories of Several Families Who Settled in Sevier County, Tennessee*
- Excavations at the Music Bastion of Fort Pitt, 1964-1965* [Allegheny County, Pennsylvania]
- Fraziers of Roney's Point: Ten Generations on the National Road*
- Frontier Forts in West Virginia*
- Genealogical Periodical Annual Index: Key to the Genealogical Literature, volume 32 and 37*
- Georgian Database-Genealogical Notes*
- Gerhard Wiebe Family, 1858-2007*
- German Immigration to America: The First Wave*
- Go Ye and Preach the Gospel* [Harris County, Texas]
- Havens-Ranney, Austin-Blakeman Ancestors and Descendants*
- History of Marshall, Oklahoma and Area: The First Century, 1887-1987, volume one*
- History of Menifee County, Kentucky*
- History of Northwest Oklahoma*
- History of the Lanclous Family Picardie to Pecaniere*
- History of Victor, New York: 1776-1976* [Ontario County]
- Hoelscher Family of Texas, 1846 to 2003: History and Genealogy of Anton and Mary Catherine Hoelscher: Nine Generations*
- Index to Egremont, 1756-1976: Egremont Bicentennial Committee* [Berkshire County, Massachusetts]
- Index to First Congregational Church of Great Barrington, 1743-1943* [Berkshire County, Massachusetts]
- Index to Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland Series: People and Places*
- Kemper County: The Pioneer Days* [Mississippi]
- Kentucky Cousins Descendants of Frank Snyder and Polly Ida (Foley) Snyder*
- Land Records of America and Their Genealogical Value*
- Lanier County: The Land and Its People* [Georgia]
- Lawmaking and Legislators in Pennsylvania: A Biographical Dictionary, volume three*
- Lough Neagh Places: Their Names and Origins* [Ireland]
- Lucky Bag, the United States Naval Academy, 1969*
- Lynch and Robinson Families: Our Family History*
- Manuel Dorscheimer Family, 1754-2008 A Genealogy of 658 Members*
- Mecklenburg: the Life and Times of a Proud People* [North Carolina]
- Mellette County, South Dakota 1911-1961*
- Messages of the Governors of Tennessee, 1796-1821, volumes one to nine*
- Milam County, Texas: Various Church Histories*
- Milam County, Texas: Various Community Histories*
- My Family History: 1500-1966* [Roger Family]
- My Roots: Tracing Your Belfast Ancestors* [Ireland]
- Naturalizations in the Marine Court New York City, 1834-1840*
- Navarro County History, volume six and seven* [Texas]
- Notes on Bell County, Texas, volumes two and three*
- Old families of Newry & District from Gravestone Inscriptions, Wills and Biographical Notes* [Ireland]
- Palo Alto County, Iowa Marriages Books 1-5 1860-1903*
- Past and Present of Mercer County, Illinois, volumes one and two*
- Past and Present of Woodford County, Illinois*
- Pike County, Indiana Cemetery Records, volumes one and two*
- Pike County, Indiana Marriage Records, 1817-1886*
- Place-Names of Northern Ireland, eight volumes*
- Poweshiek County Heritage* [Iowa]
- Pulaski County, Illinois, 1987*
- Randolph County Cemetery Records, volumes five and six*
- Recollections and Recipes* [Fayette County, Texas]
- Records of the First Church in Beverly, Massachusetts, 1667-1772* [Essex County]
- Rowan Record of Deeds, 1743-1779* (4 rolls of film) [North Carolina]
- Ships & Sailors of Old Salem, Massachusetts* [Essex County]
- Smith County, Mississippi and Its Families, 1833-2003, volume one and two*
- Snyder Family History*
- Special Collection of Tree Talks, County of Erie Abstracts* [New York]
- Special Collection of Tree Talks, County of Monroe Abstracts* [New York]
- Special Collection of Tree Talks, County of Ontario Abstracts* [New York]
- Surry County, North Carolina, Wills 1771-1827*
- Susan Blow*
- Texline Story* [Dallas County, Texas]
- Tribute to Chicot County, Arkansas, volume one*
- Trott, Brashear, McGowen and McAshan*
- War Years and the People of Antelope County, Nebraska*
- Warrick County, Indiana, 1880 Federal Census*
- William Bell: Company K 4th South Carolina Cavalry, Charleston Light Dragoons*
- Women in Texas Medicine*
- Yow Family Genealogy 2000*

Volunteer Corner

Calling All Volunteers! Clayton Library will once again be hosting its annual "Halloween Lock-In" for library volunteers on Friday, October 30. This annual event is a special "Thank You" to those who have logged volunteer hours on behalf of the library within the past year. Whether you have volunteered your time in the library, at board meetings, or from home, we appreciate your support of the library and extend this invitation to you. We would also like to invite those who are currently awaiting training to become Clayton House Volunteers (once the Clayton House officially reopens to the public).

If you would like to attend this event, please RSVP to the Clayton Library at 832-393-2600 by Wednesday, October 28. The Lock-In starts at 5:00 pm, after the library closes to the general public, and lasts until 9:00 pm (though you are free to leave at any time). The event includes light refreshments, free photocopies while you research, and opportunities to socialize with other volunteers and staff. It is always a lot of fun - we hope to see you there!

Steven Bychowski, Volunteer Coordinator

Goodbye & Farewell

Dear Friends, my tenure as the Friends Volunteer Coordinator is coming to an end. It has been an interesting, rewarding several years. I want to thank all of you who have donated over 3425 hours during the last three years. I have enjoyed meeting and working with you and the library staff. There have been a lot of changes and improvements during these years. I know the library staff has appreciated your help, while at the library and from home. The Clayton house should reopen sometime soon and a new Volunteer Director will bring more opportunities to make Clayton Library even better. Thank you again – I look forward to seeing you working around the library.

Sam Lusk

The CLAYTON ADVOCATE deadline for the FEBRUARY issue is JANUARY 1, 2010.

What have you found at Clayton? We welcome any articles related to Clayton, research, or it's collections.

CLF Well Represented at FGS

A number of Clayton Library Friends and Houston genealogists made the trip to the FGS Conference in Little Rock the first week in September. Sue Kaufman, Clayton Library Manager, is also a board member of FGS and she was the presenter at several sessions. In particular, the session on Clayton Library was very well attended (full room) and it was noted that people were enjoying her presentation and busily taking notes about our wonderful collections.

The conference was well-attended and, with as many as nine sessions occurring at any given time, there were certainly other Houston people there. Board members Karen Acker, Sam Lusk, and Kay Kopycinski attended, as well as active CLF members John Dorroh, Gay Carter, Vernon Gillette, and Pat Metcalfe. Several lunch breaks were spent with members from other Texas groups, exchanging information about activities at their libraries. CLF Acquisitions committee members John and Karen were also seen busily negotiating for free or reduced rates on items that Clayton library needs. Of course, at a conference like this where everyone is talking genealogy there is always the possibility that you will hear from a perfect stranger "That little town in southern Pennsylvania where your grandfather was born is my home-town."

Pat Metcalfe

CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor

Kay Kopycinski
kkopycinski@comcast.net

Proofreader

Pat Metcalfe
plpm@ix.netcom.com

Webmaster

Bennie Matussek

Web Service Provider

Asset Web Design
bmatussek@asset-web.com

Design/Layout

Monarch Printing Co., Inc.
monarchprinting@sbcglobal.net



Established 1987

WWW.ClaytonLibraryFriends.org

P.O. Box 271078 Houston, Texas 77277-1078

CLAYTON LIBRARY FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004-6896

832 393-2600

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



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Houston, TX
Permit No. 1747

CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS GENERAL MEETINGS

Saturday – November 14, 2009

Clayton Carriage House

10:00 a.m.

ANNUAL MEETING – ELECTION OF 2010 OFFICERS

Bruce Lockett – *Atakapa Indians: Their Part in Genealogy*. The impact the Indian had on the area where we live and how his blood line still runs in us today. Mr. Lockett will be bringing something unusual, make sure you have a camera.

Saturday – February 13, 2010

Clayton Carriage House

10:00 a.m.

David B. Appleton – *The Heralds Visitations*, an often overlooked genealogical resource. "No genealogist whose interests lie in sixteenth and seventeenth century England can afford to neglect visitation pedigrees. Used with discretion, they are an indispensable section of the genealogist's library."

Saturday – March 27, 2010

Location to be Announced

Dick Eastman – *Putting the Genes in Genealogy*