



# THE Clayton Advocate

NEWSLETTER OF THE CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

Volume XXXI Number 2 May 2017

## Executive Board

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#### **Membership**

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## Clayton Library

### **Manager**

Susan Kaufman



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to the Clayton Library Friends newsletter.

We are glad you have come back to share the excitement that we will be bringing to the library and to our members in 2017.

We will be needing lots of volunteers to help us with two big projects that will involve Clayton Library. Clayton Library Friends will be one of the host societies for the Texas State Genealogical Society's annual conference. The TSGS meetings will be held at the Omni Hotel on the west side of Houston. There will be a need for volunteers to do everything from stuffing bags before the event, to directing attendees to the correct rooms at the event.

The big event for the Friends this year will be hosting a birthday party for the Clayton House. It is 100 years old this year, and Clayton Library Friends is celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday as well.

Our big birthday bash will need volunteers to address invitations (if you have beautiful handwriting please apply here), cleaning up the House for the party, and welcoming our guests. If you are interested in helping, please let us know and tell us what you want to do. Don't just wait for a request from us. If you think something needs to be done and we have not addressed your issue, please let us know so we can make this your organization.

The next meeting of the Clayton Library Friends board will be Friday July 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m. upstairs in the Clayton House. You are invited to join us and learn what we are doing on your behalf. If you would like to address the Board, please let me know beforehand so we can put you on the agenda.

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## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Clayton Library Friends, Inc.**

### **Statement of Activities**

**January 1, 2017 to March 31, 2017**

#### **Revenue**

Unrestricted Contributions	\$ 5,840
Temporarily Restricted Contributions	2,165
Membership Dues	4,375
Other Income	1,499

**Total Revenue** **\$ 13,879**

#### **Expenditures**

Current Programs	\$ 6,850
Administrative & General	4,739

**Total Expenditures** **\$ 11,589**

**Net Operating Revenue** **\$ 2,290**

### **Statement of Financial Position**

**As of March 31, 2017**

#### **ASSETS**

Current Assets	
Bank Account	\$ 174,473
Other Current Assets (Prepaid Expense)	2,008
Fixed Assets	21,243
Total Other Assets	1,149,122
(Investments, of which \$826,907 is the permanently-restricted Endowment)	

**Total Assets** **\$1,346,846**

#### **LIABILITIES AND EQUITY**

Total Liabilities	\$ 2,582
Equity	\$ 1,344,264

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY** **\$ 1,346,846**

**Thomas F Coughlin, Treasurer**

## **President's Message –**

continued from page 1

Some needed repairs have begun at Clayton Library so be careful when you visit. There were seven City of Houston trucks there this morning doing all kinds of maintenance work in preparation for the big year of events.

We hope to see you researching at the Clayton Library very soon and/or at a Clayton Library Friends meeting.

Sue Yerby  
President

\*\*\*\*\*

## **New/Returning Members**

Clayton Library Friends extends a warm welcome to these fifteen new and returning members who have joined/re-joined CLF since our last newsletter.

**Joan Addison,  
Nancy A Baker,  
Thomas Brandino,  
Rebecca Bryant,  
Marcina Gilliam,  
Kathryn Haueisen,  
Deborah Hill,  
Polish Genealogical Society of Texas,  
Stephen & Sandy Russell,  
Russell & Mary Schulze,  
Mary Townsend,  
Margret Ann Vogt,  
Patricia R Williams.**

We are glad that you have discovered (or re-discovered) Clayton Library Friends and hope that you will also join our group of volunteers that provides support to the Clayton Library in so many ways.

**Clayton Library Friends** is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization . IRS Code 501(c)(3) . whose purpose is to enrich the resources and facilities of the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, a Special Collections branch of the Houston Public Library.

# Mark Your Calendar -- And Join Us

**Saturday, May 13, 2017, 10:15 am – 12:00 noon**  
**Carriage House Meeting Room at the Clayton Library Center**

Clayton Library Friends of Houston, Texas, invites everyone to their General Meeting on Saturday, May 13, 2017 for a presentation, *Harris County Historical Records*, by Chris Daniel, Harris County District Clerk. Sign-in begins at 10:15 am (coffee provided). The program will begin promptly at 10:30 am. Members and visitors alike are welcome to attend this free presentation.

## **Harris County Historical Documents** **Chris Daniel, District Clerk**



The Harris County Historical Document Room, located at 201 Caroline (Room 200), opened to the public in 2006. It contains historical legal documents accumulated by the county dating back to 1837. The Harris County District Clerk's Office has teamed with the Houston Bar Foundation to raise the funds needed to restore and preserve fragile documents.

Chris Daniel, a native Houstonian, grew up in Jersey Village. He earned a mechanical engineering degree from UT in Austin, and later graduated from South Texas College of Law, passing the bar in 2011. He was elected Harris County District Clerk in 2010 and re-elected in 2014, where he heads an office staffed by 550 people and oversees a \$36 million budget. The Harris County Historical Document Room is a portion of his responsibility.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Also mark your calendar for:

**CLF future meetings in the Clayton Carriage House:**

**August 12 – *State of the Clayton Library – Annual Report* by Sue Kaufman, Manager**

**November 11 – presentation on the Cuban Papers by Mary Anthony Startz**

See un-numbered page 8 for an overview of this Spanish Colonial America collection.

**Clayton House 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party and CLF 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party – September 9**

**Texas State Genealogy Society Annual Meeting in the Houston area – October 20-22**

**Clayton Library presentations – May and June schedules are on pages 10 and 11.**

# Manager's Message



## Hello Everyone!

I hope the year, which is flying by, has been a good one for all of you so far. It being May already, each day as we try to squeeze in as much as we can . work, family, grocery shopping, commitments and everything else each day brings -- I just wanted to take a moment to thank you all for being a Clayton Library Friend. It is because of each and every one of you that the Clayton Library is what it is.

Recently, Family Tree Magazine released an updated version of the 2008 list of major genealogy libraries. This year in the article entitled "*Can't Miss Genealogy Libraries*" (27 March 2017 <<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/9-libraries>>) the Clayton Library was once again listed. The Library would not be what we are without the support . financial through memberships and gifts; books donated; volunteers; and all the other activities that each member brings to the table. From offering of time, ideas, and experience it is because of you, every member of the Clayton Library Friends, we at the library can purchase materials, attend continuing education, keep the Clayton House open for customers, have books to put on the shelves, and much more. Thank you very, very much.

The Clayton Library Friends is a model in the Houston Public Library system as a group to look at for developing a successful Friends group. I recently got a call from one of my colleagues at HPL, asking me just how the Friends have been so successful. She wanted her location to start a Friends group. I mentioned all the above, but specifically mentioned the mission of the Clayton Library Friends .

*The mission of Clayton Library Friends is to enrich the resources and facilities of Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, a unit of the Houston Public Library. In the pursuit of that mission, the officers and directors of the organization, in coordination with the manager of the Clayton Library, organize and direct fundraising projects to support the acquisition of research material for the library, to upgrade library facilities, and to enhance library services. Since Clayton is primarily a family history and genealogical research center, an important part of the Clayton Library Friends' mission is the organization of programs that encourage family history research, provide specialized volunteer services for the library, and educate the public in the use of Clayton Library and its collection.*

Each and every one of you is part of this mission. I thank you for everything you do, the love you have for the library, and the time you give.

Kind Regards,  
Sue Kaufman  
Manager, Clayton Library

Learn about the happenings and special presentations at Clayton Library by subscribing to the FREE Clayton Library electronic newsletters . *Clayton Town Crier*, and *Clayton Extra*. To sign up for these genealogy newsletters, visit [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org) > Find It > Readers Link > Welcome > Newsletters for All Interests > Neighborhood Library News > enter your contact information and select  SPL Collections: Clayton.

**THE CLAYTON ADVOCATE deadline for the August 2017 issue is July 24, 2017.**

**We welcome any articles related to Clayton Library and/or its collections.**

**CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS NEWSLETTER STAFF**

**Editor – Pat Palmer Metcalfe**

**[plpm@ix.netcom.com](mailto:plpm@ix.netcom.com)**



BE AN ANGEL

## Angel Report for 2017 Periodicals Requested by Clayton Library

A big thank you to all the Clayton Library Friends who donated to the Angel program for renewal of 2017 periodical subscriptions. Through these generous donations (specific and general) all subscriptions in the Angel program have been renewed.

### Those earning their "wings" are:

Stephen P. Barrett -- donation for renewal of the *Chicago Genealogist*.

Alan H. Bath -- donation for renewal of *Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Newsletter* in memory of Daniel Webster Bath.

Wallace (Wally) and Norma Davenport -- donation to the Angel program.

Wade Mayberry -- donation for renewal of the *Indiana Genealogist*.

Michael A. Miller -- donation for renewal of *Chicago Genealogist* and *Indiana Genealogist*.

Phyllis Moody -- donation to the Angel program.

Betty Monk Ryman -- donation for renewal of the *Journal* (German Texan Heritage Society) in memory of Pierce Merrick Brower.

Dan K. Seilheimer -- donation for 3 year subscription to *Der Blumenbaum* (Sacramento German Genealogy Society).

David B. and Maureen Singleton -- donation to the Angel program in memory of Robert Maas Singleton and Carolyn Porter Bryan Singleton.

Mary Anthony Startz -- donation to the Angel program in honor of Mr. Winston De Ville.

Sandy Wilbourn -- donation to the Angel program.

Sue Yerby -- donation for the *Franklin County Genealogical Society Quarterly* (Texas), *Carolina Herald and Newsletter* (South Carolina) and *Leaves and Branches* (Navarro County, Texas).

All donations to the Angel program will be acknowledged in the CLF newsletter unless otherwise requested. Memorial donations will be acknowledged upon request.

Questions? Please contact Liz Hicks, Angel program chair: [erootrot@usa.net](mailto:erootrot@usa.net), or phone: (713) 944-1118.

**Thank you Angels for your support of Clayton Library!**

*The Clayton Advocate* -- May 2017

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# Annual HPL Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony

The Houston Public Library hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony on Wednesday, April 26 in the historic Julia Ideson Building at the Central Library. Volunteers from libraries throughout HPL (including Clayton volunteers Virginia Blalock, Lesley Douthwaite, Mary Hollis, and Sandy Wilbourn) were in attendance. HPL Director Dr. Rhea Lawson and Volunteer Services Manager Andrea Lawrence thanked the volunteers for their service and highlighted ways in which volunteers provide both critical support as well as a warm and personal touch to customer service. Volunteers were treated to a shrimp and pasta lunch and goodie bags, and door prizes were raffled. (congrats to Mary H. for winning a gift card!)

The HPL Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony also honors individual volunteers for their achievements. This year, Clayton Library was able to honor one of its own, Mr. Tom Coughlin. Tom received the award for **Most Dedicated Volunteer**. Since 2010, Tom has contributed over 800 hours of volunteer service, providing weekly support both at the Clayton House welcome desk and as a shelving volunteer on Saturdays. He has represented the Clayton Library at events of the Houston Genealogical Forum and Texas State Genealogical Society, and has held prominent leadership roles within the Sons of Union Veterans (Lt. Cmdr Edward Lea Camp), including Camp Commander and Department Junior Vice Commander for Texas and Louisiana.

Most recently, Tom stepped up to the plate to fill an unexpected vacancy in the position of Treasurer for the Clayton Library Friends. But his volunteering does not stop at the library - Tom has served his community as a member of the Medical Reserve Corps of Harris and Fort Bend County, and the Fort Bend Community Emergency Response Team, and also serves as an AARP Tax Aide. All of us are very grateful to have Tom Coughlin as a member of the Clayton Library volunteer team!

The HPL Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony acknowledges the many hours of help and support that volunteers provide to our libraries. Many thanks to all of our amazing volunteers!

Steven Bychowski  
Clayton Library Volunteer Coordinator



**Editor's note:** Tom was unable to attend the HPL ceremony and will be presented his award at the beginning of the CLF General Meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Photos of this presentation will appear in the August issue of this newsletter.



# Converting Old slides Into Digital Images –

(from the Clayton Library newsletter)

Clayton Library is pleased to provide technology that helps library visitors preserve their records, documents, and photos. In my last technology article, I talked about Clayton Library's Kodak EZ Photo Scanner, a device capable of high-quality bulk photo scanning at the rate of 25 photos per minute. Today's article introduces the Kodak SlideSnap Lite, a quick and easy way to convert photographic images found on those old-fashioned slides (the little 2+ x 2+ squares set in cardboard, plastic, or metal/glass frames) that you may have stored away at home in a closet. These slides may contain some of your earliest photos, perhaps some special memories from travels or other significant life events. This article provides a basic overview of the Kodak SlideSnap Lite and includes some tips on how to use it effectively to preserve your family memories.

The Kodak SlideSnap Lite is an automated device that allows you to load up to 80 slides at a time into a circular carousel tray. Once your slides are loaded into the tray and positioned correctly, you basically press the %go+ button and within about 10-15 minutes, the slide scanner's digital camera will convert all of the slide images into digital photos. You can then remove those 80 slides and proceed with the next batch of slides, repeating the process until all of your slides have been scanned and digitized.

Here are a few helpful hints for using the Kodak SlideSnap Lite:

- Printed guides are available at the scanner, but if it's your first attempt at slide scanning, we strongly recommend letting us know so we can give you a hands-on overview of how to get started.
- The digital camera that is used with the slide scanner will need to be re-installed and re-positioned by a staff member prior to your use of the slide scanner.
- Default camera settings are set for optimal viewing brightness, though some settings can be changed for advanced users. please ask a staff member for assistance if you wish to change any of the camera's default image settings.
- Make sure all slides face the same direction as they go around the circular carousel tray. The side of the slide containing the graphics and developing lab's logo should face away from the camera so as to prevent mirror images. People's heads should be pointed upwards (or pointed outwards to the outside of the tray, if you rotate the slide due to its size/shape).
- Note: If you have your own circular carousel tray at home, you can bring it with you and use it. the tray that is included with the slide scanner is removable. However, some tray types are incompatible with the Kodak SlideSnap Lite. If in doubt, just use the tray that comes included with the slide scanner.
- It is not uncommon for a few old slides that are slightly warped around the edges to become temporarily stuck in the slide scanner during the automated scanning process (this is especially true for slides with cardboard frames). If this happens, don't worry. the scanning will pause until the stuck slide is removed, and then automated scanning will resume once again. The slide will not be damaged in any way. (We'll show you a quick and easy method for removing a stuck slide when we give you the basic overview.)
- By default, slides are scanned and saved on the digital camera as .jpg files. You can choose a different file type if you wish.
- When all of your slides are finished scanning, you will need to remove the memory card from the camera, put it into a memory card reader (please bring one if you have one, otherwise you can borrow the library's card reader from the staff. It is kept at the Microprint Desk), and then move the photos to a computer and onto your flash drive. We can help you with this process if you need assistance.
- Take your new digital photos home, do some basic photo editing if you wish, and then share your photos with family and friends!

When you are ready to bring in your slides for scanning, you can call the Clayton Library (832-393-2600) to reserve a 2-hour time block (recommended, but not required). Be sure to bring a flash drive with you, and also a memory card reader (if you have one).

We would like to thank the Clayton Library Friends for their generous donation of this equipment to the Clayton Library. We hope you will use it to digitally preserve the memories on your slides so that you can share them with others, and pass them along to future generations.

Steven Bychowski

# Clayton Library Treasure – Did you know?

## The Cuban Papers

By Anthony Startz

Clayton Library has an extensive collection of more than 100 reels of microfilm comprising more than a million documents relating to the Spanish Colonial Period . 1571 to 1820. Officially called the *Papeles Procedentes de Cuba*, they are part of the *Archivo General de Indias* in Seville, Spain. The records are approximately 2,972 *legajos* (bundles) which were kept ribbon-tied with about 100 to 800 folio pages and include millions of individual documents. They begin in the 1570s (founding of St. Augustine) and they end in the 1820s (cession to U.S). They are part of the Spanish Colonial administrative records with corresponding archival materials in many other related archives including the *Archivo General de la Nacion* in Mexico City and many related archives in Spain. The documents are approximately 60% Spanish, 25% French and about 15% English and Latin.<sup>1</sup> Called the Cuban Papers because the vast majority of colonial Spanish records for what today is the United States and the northern gulf coast region ended up in Havana when Florida became a part of the United States. The records were not moved to the archives in Seville, Spain until the late 1880s.

The documents cover a wide range and include (among other items):

### *Correspondence to the Governors*

From Post Commanders to other military officers  
From private citizens  
From minor public officials in the colonies  
From the Ministry of the Indies, including the Council of the Indies  
From the Viceroy of New Spain in Mexico City  
Documents from outposts -- records related to settlements, immigrants, government passes, and legal proceedings

Tax list  
Pay reports for local officials  
Pay reports of regular military (not militia)  
The King's Warehouses reports and account books  
Reports of city syndicos  
Reports of the Intendant  
Includes census and miscellaneous reports.<sup>2</sup>

Now that you have a broad overview of their contents, how do you navigate them? Fortunately, there are many finding aids. However, most of them are broad indexes. So ultimately, a researcher may have to scroll through many reels of films to find what they are searching for. Let's review a few.

Roscoe Hill, a Professor of History at the University of New Mexico published in 1916 what he titled, *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Documents relating to the History of the United States in the Papeles Procedentes de Cuba deposited in the Archivo General de Indias at Seville*. Dispatches from name places, i.e. Natchez, Pensacola, and New Orleans are included, and important military figures and governors are listed. Hard copy is available upstairs with the film collection at Clayton and the book is available to download on-line.

Three additional finding aids that are most used, in addition to Roscoe Hill, are:

- *How to Navigate the Cuban Papers, 1571 – 1820* by Robert de Berardinis . This includes several other research aids.
- *Cuban Papers Facts Sheet* by Don Pusch
- Clayton's finding aid *How to Search the Cuban Papers using PARES* by Chloe Bailey. This aid is specific to Clayton's collection and would be the finding aid any Clayton researcher should review first.

A few important things to remember when researching Spanish Colonial Documents: There was no common law in Spanish areas. Women had equal property rights to men. Women kept their maiden names, had community property, and had to inherit as did legitimate children. Research by place-of-residence or by place-of-passage. Attempt to consult treasury or warehouse books, judicial records. Civil lawsuits were a favorite form of indoor entertainment, so cross-checking against judicial records is recommended.<sup>2</sup>

Any reel of microfilm pulled is a treasure of history, so don't be afraid that they are not in English. Some of the colonial Spanish and French handwriting is beautiful script and not too difficult to read. Lists of warehouse inventory and soldier lists are sometimes easier to read than correspondence, but all is worth viewing.

<sup>1</sup> *How to Navigate the Cuban Papers, 1571 – 1820* presented by Robert de Berardinis at the 2009 Le Comité Annual Meeting.

<sup>2</sup> De Berardinis, 2009 Le Comité Annual Meeting

## Special Donations –

The following special donations were made to Clayton Library thru Clayton Library Friends since our February 2017 newsletter.

### **In Memory Of:**

**Jimmie Michael Bartlett  
Ossie Ola Gilliam (Griffin)  
Jane Rebecca (Quinn) Kelly  
Dorothy McDonald  
Mary Wall Bender-Sledz**

### **In Honor Of:**

**Clayton Library Friends' 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
John Hicks  
Thomas Jones  
Stephen Price  
Gilliam Rush Family of Texas**

If you work for, or are retired from, an organization that has a matching gift program we welcome your participation.

Donations made to the CLF Angel Program are acknowledged in the *Angel* reports on page 5.

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## Clayton Library Friends Membership Report --

Please encourage your genealogy friends to join and renew their membership in Clayton Library Friends. I know that you are preaching to the choir because you are already a member if you are receiving this newsletter . and you already know that your dues and donations help keep Clayton Library the wonderful resource that it is. As you will notice on page 2 of each issue of this newsletter, we are fortunate to have fifteen or twenty new/returning members to list in each newsletter. Membership forms are always available on our web page.

We are finding that a number of our long-time members are no longer able to participate in Clayton activities, and we miss seeing the familiar faces. If you know someone like this, and they live near you, please consider offering to bring them with you to the library . either to research, or to attend a meeting or presentation.

### **CLAYTON LIBRARY CENTER FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**

5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004-6896  
832-393-2600

[www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton](http://www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton)

#### **Library Hours:**

Tuesday. 10 am . 6 pm  
Wednesday – 10 am -- 8 pm  
Thursday. 10 am . 6 pm  
Friday . 10 am . 5 pm  
Saturday -- 10 am . 5 pm  
(Closed on Sunday and Monday)

#### **Clayton House Hours:**

Tuesday thru Saturday -- 10 am . 4 pm

#### **CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS**

P O Box 271078, Houston, TX 77277-1078  
[www.ClaytonLibraryFriends.org](http://www.ClaytonLibraryFriends.org)

# From the Library --

## May 2017 -- Calendar of Events

### **Hispanic Genealogy Research Help**

**Saturday, May 6, 2017 – 12pm – 2pm**

Need help finding your Hispanic family roots? Members of the Hispanic Genealogical Society of Houston will be available for consultation and research help to guide you on the path to finding those roots. No reservations required. Adults/Teens

### **Quickstart #2**

**Saturday, May 6, 2017 -- 2pm – 4pm**

Join us for an introduction to the databases HeritageQuest and Fold3. This program will cover navigating the home page of each of these sources and includes some tips and tricks for effective research. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600. Adults/Teens.

### **Clayton Library Orientation**

**Saturday, May 20, 2017 – 2pm – 4pm**

In Clayton Library's monthly orientation we cover the process of research and discovery in the beginning steps of a family history project. Following this brief introduction, we examine the resources available at the Clayton Library and their organization, as well as how to plan an effective visit to the Library. No reservations required. Adults/Teens.

### **Faite (welcome) – to your Irish Ancestry!**

**Saturday, May 27, 2017 – 10:30am – 12pm**

In this class you will explore some 21<sup>st</sup> century methods of finding and understanding the records created by your Irish ancestors. Civil registration, census, and church records in Eire and Northern Ireland will be explored. Many databases, both free and paid, which contain Irish records, will be touched upon. This program will be presented by Clayton Library staff member Irene B Walters. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600. Adults/Teens

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## June 2017 -- Calendar of Events

### **Midwestern Ancestors? You Betcha!**

**Saturday, June 3, 2017 – 10:30am – 12:45pm**

Explore your Midwestern roots with back-to-back programs covering the genealogical resources of America's heartland. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600. Adults/Teens

### **Midwestern Research:**

**The Great Lakes States are Really Great – 10:30am – 11:30am**

Do you have family that resided in the states formed from the Northwest Ordinance? The states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin and resources available for research in these states will be presented. Come and learn about the Midwest from a Midwestern gal, Clayton Library staff member Sue Kaufman.

**Our Rural Ancestors – 11:45am – 11:45pm**

Learn more about your Midwestern rural ancestors as we explore county histories, agricultural censuses, farmer directories, and local newspapers. We'll look at examples and discuss where to find these colorful resources. Presented by Clayton Library staff member Joy Oria, dontcha know.

# From the Library -- continued from page 10

## June 2017 -- Calendar of Events – continued

### **Hispanic Genealogy Research Help Saturday, June 3, 2017 – 12pm – 2pm**

Need help finding your Hispanic family roots? Members of the Hispanic Genealogical Society of Houston will be available for consultation and research help to guide you on the path to finding those roots. No reservations required. Adults/Teens

### **Clayton Library Orientation Saturday, June 17, 2017 – 2pm – 4pm**

In Clayton Library's monthly orientation we cover the process of research and discovery in the beginning steps of a family history project. Following this brief introduction, we examine the resources available at the Clayton Library and their organization, as well as how to plan an effective visit to the Library. No reservations required. Adults/Teens.

### **World War I Centennial Commemoration Saturday, June 17, 2017 – 2pm – 4pm**

No reservations required. Adults/Teens

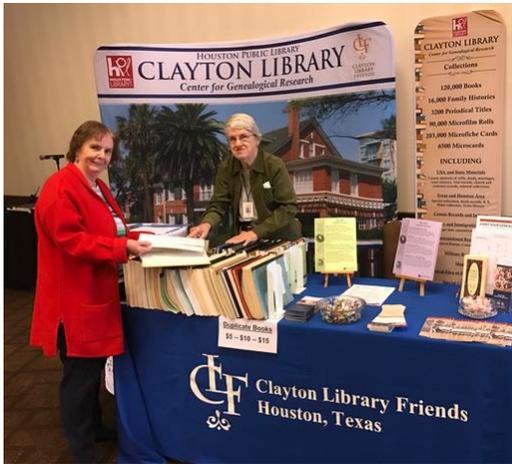
This past April marked the centennial of America's entry into World War I. To commemorate this monumental anniversary, Andrew Carroll, author of four bestselling books and director of the Center for American War Letters, gives readers a stunning work of narrative history in ***MY FELLOW SOLDIERS: General John Pershing and the Americans Who Helped Win the Great War*** (Penguin Press). Carroll has made it his life's mission to raise public awareness about the need to find and preserve war letters and diaries to honor and remember veterans, troops, and their families. In this new book, Carroll includes little-known and newly uncovered letters by General Pershing, as well as those who served with him, to create an incredibly vivid and poignant account of the American experience in World War I.

Simultaneous with the book launch, Carroll will initiate the "**Million Letters Campaign**" a nationwide effort encouraging Americans to seek out and preserve 1,000,000 letters from every U.S. conflict. To mark the war's centennial, Carroll helped curate two exhibits both called *My Fellow Soldiers*, at Chapman University and the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum. Carroll was also featured in the PBS film about World War I, *The Great War*, which premiered on April 10, 2017.



Andrew Carroll is the founding director of the Center for American War Letters at Chapman University in Orange, California. Along with editing the *New York Times* bestsellers *War Letters* and *Behind the Lines*, Carroll edited *Operation Homecoming*, which inspired the Emmy-winning documentary of the same name. Carroll lives in Washington, D.C. and Orange, California.

# The Clayton Library Exhibit is Traveling Again –

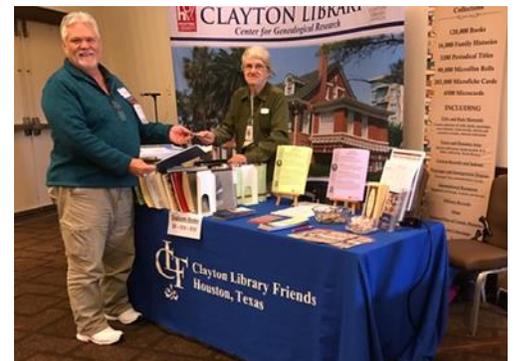


Our use of the Clayton Library Exhibit at local and national conferences has garnered a good deal of interest, and a wonderful chance to talk to people face-to-face about the Clayton Library resources. The thing that seems to surprise them the most is that Clayton is a national and international collection. They tend to assume that since we are part of the Houston Public Library that we would have only Houston and Harris County references. It's always fun to see their expressions when we talk about our ongoing Book for Every County in the United States project.

In early March the exhibit was a part of the Texas State Historical Association conference held in downtown Houston. Five CLF members shared the booth duties -- Barbara Richards, Randy Pace, Pat Metcalfe, Sue Yerby, and Nick Cimino.

This month (May 10-13) the exhibit is attending the NGS (National Genealogical Society) Annual Conference in Raleigh, NC. John Dorroh from CLF, and Clayton staff member Joy Oria will be handling the booth duties. If anyone is attending the conference and would like to assist at the booth, John and Joy would appreciate it.

We are planning to take the exhibit to FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies) in Pittsburgh the end of August/early September. Again, we welcome any attendees to join us in welcoming visitors to the booth.



## In Memoriam

Sadly, as the Membership committee was updating the 2017 membership list, we learned of the deaths of some of our long-time members and loyal advocates of Clayton Library.

**Paul Gervais Bell, Jr** (1922-2016) died on October 21, 2016. He was born at Camp Knox, Kentucky, and became a resident of Houston in 1932. After serving in the army in World War II, he completed his college work and in 1956 he formed P G Bell Co and later Amistad Construction Co. He retired in 1990.

**Robert Neill Hart** (1935-2016) was born in Oklahoma City. He had a career in the oil and gas industry. After working for Carter Oil, Esso, and Humble Oil, he retired from Exxon after 36 years of service. He had a real passion for genealogy and published a book, *Hart Family History* in 2008.

**Jane Rebecca (Quinn) Kelly** (1919-2017) died March 27, 2017 after a short period of declining health. Born in Skidmore Texas, the family moved to Houston while she was a child. She was employed for 32 years at the Southern Pacific Railroad. Her obituary requests that donations in her memory be made to Clayton Library. Clayton Library Friends will apply these donations toward new library acquisitions.

**Herbert Arthur Lesser** (1937-2016) died on May 5, 2016. He enjoyed two long and successful careers: energy (Exxon and Mitchell Energy) and financial advisory services (Paine Webber/UBS). He was an avid genealogist and photographer, and an amateur astronomer.

**Florence Hammer Parks** (1925-2017) died peacefully on February 21, 2017. Later in her life, she became very interested in genealogy, and became such a fixture at the Clayton Library that she was offered a job. She worked there for five years.

Full obituaries are available on the internet by searching Google.