



THE Clayton Advocate

NEWSLETTER OF THE CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

Volume XXXI Number 3 August 2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Today I would like to remind you of some of the things that you, as members of Clayton Library Friends, have done and continue to do for Clayton Library. The Friends was organized 30 years ago for the purpose of, (taken from the original Letter of Incorporation) %the furtherance of genealogical research, including the enrichment of the total resources and facilities of the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research in Houston, Texas.+

There have been many Boards elected and all have diligently served the forward movement of Clayton Library. I know there have been many things that have been done by %the Friends+ in the past but I would like to focus on the things done since I became a Board member four years ago.

First and foremost, we continue to recruit and provide volunteers to work in the library. The Library staff would not be able to function in their responsibility to teach and assist the patrons if they were needed to shelve books, man the microprint desk and Clayton House desk, and work on special projects. The Friends lovingly provides the volunteers who graciously donate their time and talent.

In the past three years the Friends have purchased two microfilm/microfiche reader printers, photo scanning equipment, and display items to advertise Clayton Library at many state and national conferences.

Clayton Library Friends have paid a portion of the expenses for a staff member to attend out-of-town advanced training in specific genealogical areas. Did you know that all the staff members have different areas of expertise?

And finally, our purchase of new books, microfilm, and databases to provide you with the most research material we can

continued on page 2

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Clayton Library Friends, Inc.

Statement of Activities

January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017

Revenue

Unrestricted Contributions	\$ 9,805
Temporarily Restricted Contributions	2,405
Membership Dues	5,250
Other Income	66

Total Revenue \$ 17,526

Expenditures

Current Programs	\$ 17,082
Administrative & General	17,460

Total Expenditures \$ 34,542

Net Operating Revenue (Loss) \$ -17,016

Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2017

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Bank Account	\$ 154,407
Other Current Assets (Prepaid Expense)	2,008
Fixed Assets	21,243
Total Other Assets	1,165,663
(Investments, of which \$826,907 is the permanently-restricted Endowment)	

Total Assets \$1,343,321

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Total Liabilities	\$ 1,489
Equity	\$ 1,344,810

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$ 1,343,321

Thomas F Coughlin, Treasurer

President's Message –

continued from page 1

find on your area of research. In just the month of June we purchased over 200 new books that are being processed for shelving now (maybe one of them is in your area of research). Last year we added 911 new books to the collection at Clayton Library. I'm afraid that is not done by just walking into Barnes & Noble and filling up a shopping cart. Finding books for Clayton library is not an easy thing. Many of the books are out of print publications so they must be researched and actively sought after. If there is a book you are looking for or an area you feel needs more material, please let us know.

Clayton Library Friends will continue to provide assistance to Clayton Library with financial help, volunteer support, and by shining the spotlight on this glorious gem of the Houston community.

Sue Yerby
President

New/Returning Members

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

**Patricia Baron,
Maurice Bursey,
Cindy Cuffy,
Bruce Gilmore,
Sheryl Schilling,
Sandra Sauers,
Cynthia Trainer, and
Sharon Young.**

We're glad that you've discovered (or re-discovered) Clayton Library Friends and hope that you'll 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, August 12, 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, August 12, 2017 for a presentation, *State of Clayton Library*, by library manager, Sue Kaufman. 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.



State of Clayton Library **Sue Kaufman, Manager**

Susan Kaufman, Manager of Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, will enlighten us about current educational programming and activities at the library which have been planned for the near future. You will also hear about important acquisitions for the library which can help you in your quest to uncover your own family history.

Ms. Kaufman has been a genealogy librarian for twenty-three years including six years at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Clayton Library's ability to acquire one-of-a-kind resources, special government documents, and other hard-to-find materials has been a plus for researchers. Sue heads up a team of librarians who have all worked on their own genealogies. They share these personal experiences by offering library programming, and public speaking at venues which reach out to educate the public on genealogy.

We are blessed to have access to such a research facility right here in Houston, one recognized within the very top genealogical research libraries in the United States. Sue Kaufman and her team of librarians, along with the volunteer and financial support of Clayton Library Friends, provide all of us with a more dynamic research facility. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear about the many successes and future plans for Clayton Library.

* * * * *

Also mark your calendar for:

CLF Annual Meeting in the Clayton Carriage House:

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

See page 8 of the May issue of the *Clayton Advocate* for an overview of this Spanish Colonial America collection. Another article will appear in the November issue.

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

Go to www.txsgs.org for more information.

Clayton Library presentations – partial schedules are on page 12.

Manager's Message



Hello Everyone!

If you haven't heard, the Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS) is having its annual conference in Houston 20-22 October 2017 at the Omni Houston Hotel at Westside. Featured speakers are J. Mark Lowe, CG, and Dr. Michael Lacopo, DVM. If you were in Houston in 2011, you might remember the TxSGS conference that was held at the Marriott Hobby Airport, with Paula Stuart-Warren as the featured speaker. What a fun time we all had at that conference! I can promise you, we will have even more fun at the 2017 conference.

This 3-day conference will have even more sessions, a full exhibit hall of vendors, special workshops and of course networking, maybe meeting some new cousins, and plenty of information. Not only will we have our featured speakers, there are going to be nearly 60 other sessions to choose from during those three days.

And best of all, you don't have to drive through downtown to get to the Omni. Conveniently located at I-10 and Eldridge, you can take Beltway 8 or 610 to I-10 and come out west! Many of you know I live in Katy. So yes, as Education Director for TxSGS, it might seem that I chose that hotel for its proximity to Katy. But believe me, it is a lovely venue and best of all, if you are inclined to stay ~~out west~~, the hotel room rate is \$99. Visit www.txsgs.org for more information. Registration and the full program should be online within the next couple of weeks.

As we do at the Clayton Library, and as I do in my position as Education Director of TxSGS, one of the most important things we can offer is continuing education -- offering you tools to help you further your research. This is a fantastic opportunity to attend a major genealogy conference right here in our backyard.

I also hope you will be able to join me and the members of the Clayton Library Friends for my annual ~~State of the Library~~ presentation on Saturday 12 August 2017 at 10:30am in the Carriage House at the Clayton Library. The library would not be what it is without your continued support. We enjoy making sure you get the best bang for your membership buck at the library with our programming!

See you at the library and at the conference!

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 > Find It > Reader's Link > Welcome > Newsletters for All Interests > Neighborhood Library News > enter your contact information and select ~~SPL~~ Collections: Clayton.

THE CLAYTON ADVOCATE deadline for the November 2017 issue is October 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

Editorial Assistance – Norma Davenport, Lesley Douthwaite

It's NOW – or NEVER!!!

August 31st is the deadline for ordering microfilm from Salt Lake – the 80-year-old microfilm distribution service is being discontinued – FOREVER!!!

If there are films that you will ever want to look at in the future, and have been putting off ordering until a more convenient time for you to look at them . **wait no longer!!!**. Any film now being ordered DOES NOT have a return date . it will be kept with the other LDS films in the Clayton House.
Let's all get busy and act now.

News Release



FamilySearch Digital Records Access Replacing Microfilm

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (26 June 2017)· [FamilySearch](#), a world genealogy leader and nonprofit, announced today its plans to discontinue its 80-year-old microfilm distribution service. The transition is the result of significant progress made in FamilySearch's microfilm digitization efforts and the obsolescence of microfilm technology. The last day for ordering microfilm will be August 31, 2017. Online access to digital images of the world's historic records allows FamilySearch to service more people around the globe, faster and more efficiently. See [Finding Digital Images of Records on FamilySearch.org](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional information. Find and share this announcement online in the [FamilySearch Newsroom](#).

A global leader in historic records preservation and access, FamilySearch and its predecessors began using microfilm in 1938, amassing billions of the world's genealogical records in its collections from over 200 countries. Why the shift from microfilm to digital? Diane Loosle, Director of the Patron Services Division said, "Preserving historic records is only one half of the equation. Making them easily accessible to family historians and researchers worldwide when they need them is the other crucial component."

Loosle noted that FamilySearch will continue to preserve the master copies of its original microfilms in its Granite Mountain Records Vault as added backup to the digital copies online.

As the Internet has become more accessible to people worldwide over the past two decades, FamilySearch made the decision to convert its preservation and access strategy to digital. No small task for an organization with 2.4 million rolls of microfilm in inventory and a distribution network of over 5,000 family history centers and affiliate libraries worldwide.

It began the transition to digital preservation years ago. It not only focused on converting its massive microfilm collection, but also in replacing its microfilm cameras in the field. All microfilm cameras have been replaced with over 300 specialized digital cameras that significantly decrease the time required to make historic records images accessible online.

FamilySearch has now digitally reproduced the bulk of its microfilm collection· over 1.5 billion images so far· including the most requested collections based on microfilm loan records worldwide. The remaining microfilms should be digitized by the end of 2020, and all new records from its ongoing global efforts are already using digital camera equipment.

Digital image collections can be accessed today in three places at FamilySearch.org. Using the Search feature, you can find them in [Records](#) (check out the *Browse all published collections* link), [Books](#), and the [Catalog](#). For additional help, see [Finding Digital Images of Records on FamilySearch.org](#).

Transitioning from microfilm to digital creates a fun opportunity for FamilySearch's family history center network. Centers will focus on simplified, one-on-one experiences for patrons, and continue to provide access to relevant technology, popular premium subscription services, and restricted digital record collections not available to patrons from home.

Centers and affiliate libraries will coordinate with local leaders and administrators to manage their current microfilm collections on loan from FamilySearch, and determine when to return films that are already published online. For more information, see [Digital Records Access Replacing Microfilm](#).



BE AN ANGEL

Angel Donors are Needed for 2018 Periodical Subscriptions for Clayton Library

It is that time again, to seek Angel donors for periodicals for Clayton Library. You can earn your wings+ by donating for one or more of the following periodicals requested by Clayton Library. Non-specific donations are always welcome. All donations to the Angel Program will be acknowledged in the CLF Newsletter, unless otherwise requested. Memorial donations will be acknowledged upon request.

Please contact: Liz Hicks, 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030; phone: (713) 944-1118, or e-mail: erootrot@usa.net for questions. Checks should be made payable to Clayton Library Friends, and mailed to: P.O. Box 271078, Houston, TX 77277-1078.

Alabama Genealogical Society Magazine \$15
American-Canadian Genealogical Society \$50
Annals of Wyoming (WY State Historical Soc.) \$45
Argyll Colony Plus (NC Scottish Heritage Soc) \$30
Arkansas Family Historian (AR Geneal. Soc) \$25
Carolina Herald and Newsletter (South Carolina) \$8
Carolinas Genealogical Society Quarterly \$18
Central Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly \$30
Ceske Stopy (Texas Czech Genealogical Society) \$25
Chicago Genealogist \$25
Chronicles of Oklahoma (OK Historical Society) \$35
Clarke County Hist. & Gen. Soc. Quarterly (AL) \$30
Collin County Chronicles (Collin County, TX) \$25
Der Blumenbaum (German Genealogy) \$30
Families (Ontario Genealogical Soc.-Canada) \$100
Family Tree Magazine (United Kingdom) \$100
Flint Genealogical Society Quarterly (Michigan) \$20
Franklin County Genealogical Soc. Quarterly (TX) \$20
Genie (ARK-LA-TEX) Genealogical Association \$20
Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly \$35
Goingsnake Messenger (Oklahoma) \$15
Idaho Genealogical Society Quarterly \$35
Illinois State Genealogical Society \$35
Indiana Genealogist \$30
Internet Genealogy \$32.95
Irish Roots \$37
Journal of the Afro-American Hist. & Gen. Soc. \$45

Journal (German-Texan Heritage Soc Quarterly) \$40
Kin Hunters (Sandusky, Ohio) \$17
Le Raconteur (Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiane) \$15
Leaves and Branches (Navarro County, TX Genealogical Society) \$15
Les Voyageurs (German-Acadian Coast Hist. & Gen. Society) \$15
Licking Lantern (Licking County, Ohio) \$14
Lifelines (Northern NY-American-Canadian) \$35
Maine Genealogist \$25
MASSOG & Past Times (Massachusetts) \$25
Middle Tennessee Journal of Geneal. & History \$30
Minnesota Genealogist (Minnesota Gen Soc.) \$35
Montgomery Genealogical Soc. Quarterly (AL) \$25
Old Newberry (Newberry County, So. Carolina) \$20
Rhode Island Roots \$15
Rodziny (Polish Genealogical Soc. of America) \$30
Shelby County (AL) Historical Society Quarterly \$20
South Dakota Genealogical Society Quarterly \$23
St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly (MO) \$40
Tap Roots (East Alabama Genealogical Society) \$25
The Times (Central No Carolina/multi-counties) \$20
Topeka Genealogical Society Quarterly (KS) \$55
Vermont Genealogy \$25
Wisconsin State Genealogical Society \$30

Those who have earned their "wings" since the last CLF Newsletter are:

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

Mr and Mrs David Hicks – donation to the Angel program in memory of Mr. Don Cain of Beaumont & Houston.

Thank you Angels for your support of Clayton Library!

Proving a Family Tradition –

My family's tradition or family story for my Nitschke ancestor is Carl Ludwig Nitschke (1813-1888) who was asked to leave Germany due to his democratic views. I didn't give this much thought, as have been down the wrong garden path+from other family stories.

While shelving at Clayton Library, I saw this book, *German Revolutionists of 1848: Among Whom Many Immigrants to America*, Clifford Neal Smith, Westland Publications, ISSN0094-7806 (Clayton Library- United States Section, Gen 943 S644). Of course, I looked for Nitschke. To my surprise, listed on page 99 of Part 3: Surnames L . R is Karl Ludwig Nitzschke, cabinet maker, Lunzenau/Sachsen (Kingdom of Saxony) 48/5469. I knew from a Nitschke family Bible he was married and the birth of three of his children had been in Lunzenau, Germany. I also knew from Austin, Texas city directories that he was a cabinet and furniture maker. The reference had to be him.

This book, *German Revolutionists of 1848....* stated one should check for American Civil War service if ancestor was listed. I knew Carl Ludwig Nitschke had fought for Texas from Travis County. There was also a reference to an LDS (Mormon) film number 1180368 which is *Revolutionsteilnehmer 1848-1849 A-Z*, and according to film notes, records were at the Generallandesarchiv Karlsruhe in Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany. Using google translator, English to German, I wrote a letter to this archives with a copy of the Karl Ludwig Nitzschke reference from the LDS microfilm. I received an email which said, %We only accept wire-transfers for payment, send 25 euros (about \$26.25)+, and they would send the records. (I suggest you shop around for wire transfer fees, as Chase Bank charges \$50 plus amount -- no matter what the actual fee/charge.)

The Archives e-mailed 14 pages of information. Since the records were in German script, I had to have them translated. This is what I found in proving my family tradition:

Ministry on Foreign Affairs of the Grand-Duchy
Karlsruhe
Criminal Matters

Foreigners who participated in the revolt in the Grand-Duchy Baden in May and July 1849.

To the Ministry of Baden
Division of Foreign Affairs
Karlsruhe

The merchant Moritz Hugo Gu from Lunzenau, Saxony, is associated in these parts with a highly treasonous handbill dated Heidelberg the 28 May. This handbill was distributed in the Grand Duchy of Baden by refugees from Saxony. Gu was certainly present there during the revolt. He was taken in by the royal justice court of Saxony for questioning because of such a handbill. He denied any participation in the revolt as well as any connection to the handbill and acknowledged only to have had contact with some of the revolutionists. He stated that during his ten to thirteen days stay in Heidelberg, from the end of May into June of this year, he lived in the same *Gasthof %zum Falken+*[At the Hawk] in Heidelberg as did the **cabinetmaker Carl Ludwig Nitschke from Lunzenau** who is wanted by the Courts. Later they resided at the same time in the *Gasthof %zur Stadt Straesburg+*[The City of Strasburg] at Karlsruhe.

The undersigned ministry asks assistance for information to establish details of the activities by Gu while in the Duchy of Baden. Along with this request we are also seeking information on those persons from Saxony who participated in the revolt in Baden.

This Ministry thanks you in advance.
This dated 11 August 1849
Royal Ministry on Foreign Affairs of Saxony.

Apparently, Carl Ludwig Nitzschke was only passing out handbills, but record says he was wanted by the Courts (in Saxony?). Lunzenau is on the east side of Germany, not in Baden which is on the west side of Germany near France. Did he leave his wife and 3 young kids in Lunzenau to protest the Prussians? More questions. However, I do believe I was able to prove/document the Nitschke family story.

Now to prove great-grandma's comment to her children that they were %cousins+of General Lafayette!

Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks

Clayton Library Friends turns 30 –

Five years ago, when we celebrated CLF's 25th anniversary, our newsletter, the *Clayton Advocate*, printed a four-part article noting some of the outstanding milestones of the organization and its support of Clayton Library. The following is a re-print of those articles, with the addition of a fifth part . the most recent five years.

Part I – Starting out...

In February 1987 a group called Clayton Library Friends was formed. At that time they filed their application for IRS tax exemption; and in April the Articles of Incorporation as a non-profit organization were filed with the Secretary of the State of Texas. The tax-exempt status was approved in November, thus making donations to CLF tax deductible.

During the first three months the group had grown to 200 members. It was decided by the Board of Directors that anyone who paid their dues by June 30th would be considered a Charter Member of Clayton Library Friends. Thus, the large number of current (2012) CLF members who identify themselves as charter members.

On March 24th the Board approved a \$600 contribution to Clayton Library to purchase the *International Genealogical Index*. This was the first direct contribution made by the organization and was made possible from dues paid by members.

By June of that same year, the latest word from City Hall was that the bids for the new building had been opened and all were within budget. October 6th was the date of the official groundbreaking. After opening remarks, Mayor Kathryn Whitmire, Councilman George Greanias, Library Board Director Katherine T Mize, CLF Vice-president Barbara York, and Library Director David Henington took up shovels that were beautifully decorated with red, white, and blue ribbon and officially broke the ground for the new building site.

Early in 1988 the membership received exciting news in a letter to CLF President John Kirtley from J H Creekmore, President of Houston Endowment, Inc., a philanthropy endowed by Mr and Mrs Jesse H Jones. The letter said . "Reference to your letter of 1 January 1988 in which you request monies for the furnishing and making usable the new building of the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, 5300 Caroline, Houston, Texas, a unit of Houston Public Library. I am pleased to inform you that the trustees at our meeting of 27 January 1988 authorized a grant of \$760,000 for the above mentioned purpose. Accordingly, this grant of \$760,000 payable to Clayton Library Friends, Inc. will be funded on 31 May 1988."

Other good news came in January 1988 from Exxon Company relative to their Volunteer Involvement Fund Program which encourages volunteerism by employees and annuitants. A \$1,000 check to be used toward the purchase of microfiche readers was given to Clayton Library Friends because of volunteer efforts.

CLF members, Avis and Harry Brister, spent a great deal of time and effort in photographing and assembling approximately 60 slides showing the present (1987) facilities and focusing on the new building. They titled the presentation, *A Dream of the Past...A Reality of Today*. In 1989 the slide show that was developed to alert people to the coming of a big, new, beautiful library building was updated to include shots of the new building, both inside and out, new equipment, and the accessibility to the materials.

In 1987 CLF meetings were held at 10am on Wednesdays. The April 1988 *CLF Newsletter* contained the following announcement. "In response to the request of many members unable to attend daytime meetings, a night meeting has been arranged for Friday July 8 at Kaphan's Restaurant on south Main. It will be a dinner meeting beginning at 6pm, and the form for mailing your reservation is at the bottom of this newsletter" +

The *CLF Newsletter* proudly proclaimed that "On Monday morning, October 31, 1988 the doors of the magnificent new building open for us and succeeding generations to use and enjoy. The beautiful furnishing, snack room, patio, lockers, elevators, and sparkling rest rooms on both floors will make you ask, IS THIS REALLY TRUE?"+

Spring 1989 brought the announcement that "We have placed membership application forms in the snack bar and on the information desk, had good response from a CLF sign on the sign-in desk, and permission was

given to set up a membership table in the foyer of the library. In one two-hour period we signed up 19 new members.+ By April of that year the CLF membership had exceeded 490.

One of the early volunteer projects of CLF was the placement of boxes on the tables in Clayton to hold slips of paper for marking pages to be photocopied and/or writing call numbers.

The original 1987 Bylaws were updated several times in the early years, and since then have been periodically modified as needed. As the group evolved and situations changed, the Board has been responsive to evaluating recommended changes. After Board approval of adjustments, the membership is informed, and then vote at a General Meeting to accept or reject the changes.

Part II – The middle years ...

For several years before 1994, the year we hosted the National Genealogical Society (NGS) in Houston, we spent many long hours planning for the event. By all reports, it was a success and all those involved breathed a sigh of relief when it was over.

One of our early concerns, as we planned for the influx of NGS researchers, was the August 1991 HPL reports of financial malnutrition in their budget. It seems to be a recurring problem. The July 2003 newsletter reports that "Clayton staff is down to fourteen+ [In April 2012 the library staff now numbers 8.] But April 2002 was the threat that worried Clayton Library Friends. The Houston City Council planned to make drastic cuts in the HPL budget, bringing rumors of reduction of Clayton staff, reduction of library hours, etc. CLF sprang into action . speaking at City Council meetings, conducting City Councilmen on tours of Clayton Library, and introducing them individually to what genealogy really was and how important the library and its services were to the general population of Houston. In July 2002, Clayton Library Friends made a commitment to the City that CLF volunteers would man non-reference librarian positions to ease the intractable insistence of the HPL administration to shut Clayton.q To this day, CLF continues to fully man the Welcome Desk at the Clayton House, and to provide many other valuable volunteer services to our library.

In April 1998 the president of the National Genealogical Society advised us that the *The CLF Newsletter* had been selected as the first place winner of the 1997 NGS Newsletter Competition in the category of Major Genealogical Societies. In 2001 CLF (Don Pusch, editor) entered the NGS Newsletter Competition for a second time. This time we were awarded Honorable Mention in the Major Genealogical and/or Historical Societies Category of the National Genealogical Society 2001 Newsletter Competition . receiving 274 points out of a possible 300.

Until the remodeling of the Carriage House, do you remember where we held our meetings? Lots of different places: Montrose Library, University of Houston/College of Engineering, Foley's Oasis Room at NW Mall, Houston Public Library (Central), Bayland Community Center on Bissonnet, and the Jungman Library on Westheimer. Who remembers the 1997 Virginia Research Seminar at the Judson Robinson Jr Community Center with the Drill team practicing above our meeting room?

Highlights of the middle years would not be complete without mentioning the Re-labeling Project in May/June of 1998. It was thought that it would take months to rearrange and label all the books in the Clayton Library . it took less than 7 weeks. By converting from the Dewey Decimal System, Clayton became much more user-friendly and browse-able. Books of a particular state are now grouped in three sections. Books with applicability to the entire state or books whose subject matter relates to more than one county are shelved first. These are followed by books that relate to single counties, shelved alphabetically by county name. Third in line are the state's bound periodicals. CLF members typed and applied two labels to each book. Family histories are housed separately and alphabetically by the surname of the primary family.

In February 1999 the Clayton staff introduced us to the marker blocks in the microprint area. What a big help when it comes time to return the reel to its proper place in the drawer. And, with the decrease in the number of staff, fewer reels are being returned to the wrong drawers.

Also in February 1999, Clayton Library Friends was able to purchase a large number of City Directory microfilm. We received a large donation from the Huffington Foundation restricted to the purchase of City Directories . mostly 1890's era.

In 2000 the Clayton Library Friends received a major addition to the CLF Endowment Fund. In accordance with the wishes of Margaret E Whiteley, who passed away in November 1999, a gift of \$108,204 from the Margaret E Whiteley Charitable Trust was added to our Endowment Fund. Margaret was a charter member and served on the CLF Executive Board from 1989 to 1991.

Part III – The new century begins ...

Remember the trips to Salt Lake City with our CLF trip coordinator, Dr Art Alee? And how disappointed we were when we were told to discontinue sponsoring them because of possible liability to the organization.

The Millennium Book Project helped the library fill some gaps in the library collection. *The CLF Newsletter* published a want list of individual books that were needed, and members generously contributed toward the designated purchases. All of the books on the first list were spoken for within the first week after the newsletter appeared. So, the presentation of an updated want list was continued for several years.

In 2000, the library started a concentrated effort to have topical displays . Texas history, Black Heritage, Finding Your Female Ancestors, etc -- an effort that has been continued and has made the library more welcoming.

Houston history remembers The Great Flood when tropical storm Allison hit the area June 5-9, 2001. Luckily the library escaped flooding, and only suffered a few leaks that were quickly cleaned up. There was no damage to the Clayton collection or to any of the library's equipment or furnishings.

After a number of years of talking about these collections, the Natchez Trace collection of colonial and territorial documents from Louisiana and Mississippi, and the Cuban Papers were ordered in the fall of 2001. The 1,321 rolls of the Cuban Papers arrived in segments, until the last batch of 321 rolls arrived in September of 2006. A number of other sponsored collections were purchased for the library over the years.

In about 2003 the Clayton staff started the tradition of hosting a Volunteer Party for the Clayton Library Friends volunteers. Taking place one evening in October, Family History Month, the occasion has been a fun gathering of volunteers for food and research after the library has closed. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet other volunteers.

On Saturday, October 2, 2004 the dedication of an Official State of Texas Historical Marker honoring William Lockhart Clayton and Susan Vaughan Clayton was held in the auditorium of the Holocaust Museum. Ray Miller gave the principal address honoring the Claytons while providing the audience with some interesting history of the Anderson Clayton Company in Houston. After the presentation, everyone walked across the street to the Clayton Library where the marker was unveiled.

The May 2004 CLF newsletter had an article titled Clayton Home Restoration Fund. The first line reads Recently, a group of Clayton family members came forward to the CLF board and expressed interest in providing a substantial portion of funds needed for the renovation and restoration of the Clayton home, carriage house, and guest quarters. Thus began a long-term project of renovating the three buildings. The Clayton home was built in 1916 and donated to the City of Houston in 1958 by the Clayton family. It was partially refurbished during 1993-1995, but this work fell far short of what was needed.

As fund-raising for the renovation continued, the property continued to deteriorate. Every time it rained, the library staff had to set out buckets in the House to catch water. In early June 2006, new shelving was installed on the second floor of the main building, and the Family History Book Collection was moved from the House. Everything was available for researchers in the main building. The Hard Hat Party was held at the Clayton House on July 9, 2006. Over the next several years workmen came and went, until on Monday March 2, 2009, Mayor Bill White formally opened the new facilities to the public. The loan to fund the renovation project was paid in full in 2009. Clayton Library with Charlie Gardes, CLF Director and Construction Committee Chair, received the Houston Business Journal's prestigious Landmark Award for the renovation of a historical facility.

The Clayton Complex now has three historic buildings to be proud of!!

Part IV – Recent years ...

In May 2006, Marje Harris, Manager of Clayton Library retired. The first week of August we welcomed Susan Kaufman as our new Library Manager. She is the fourth manager in the history of Clayton library . following Mary Flo Ulmer, Maxine Alcorn, and Marje Harris.

Along with the updated look of the Clayton Center buildings, the CLF Board agreed to a new look for their newsletter. *The CLF Newsletter* became *The Clayton Advocate* in 2007. And, it changed from a black and white publication with the masthead of a line-drawing of the main library building to a masthead drawing of the front door of the Clayton House. The new look also included two-color front and back pages.

Did we mention the fund-raising ~~P~~aver Campaign? The resulting success of that project is visible daily as one walks through the parking lot between the House and the Main building.

When the buildings were nearing the final stages of completion, an Open House was held for the donors on Sunday, March 1, 2009. On Monday, March 2nd Mayor Bill White formally opened the new facilities to the public. After several years of concentration on the renovation, everyone was ready to re-dedicate ourselves to focusing on the long established goals of the Friends . acquisitions for the Clayton library.

April 2010 brought us the recurring refrain from the Houston City Council (and Houston Public Library) that budget cuts would be absolutely necessary, and with it would come cuts in Library service hours. We were told that the library would be open only one night a week, and that it would be closed on Fridays. Outrage is a mild term for the reaction from our library patrons . particularly those in town for the weekend and wanting to do genealogical research. After documenting library attendance, the library system was convinced that having Clayton closed on Mondays was more logical than closing on Fridays. We continue with the reduced hours, and a diminishing number of staff personnel as one by one the current staff retires. Thus, the repeated requests for more Volunteers to do some of the routine tasks so that the staff is free to help patrons.

Early in November 2011 the Texas genealogy world descended on Houston for the annual meeting of the Texas State Genealogical Society . co-hosted by Clayton Library Friends.

Part V – Since 2012 ...

Clayton Library Friends quarterly meetings continue to have speakers on a wide variety of genealogy subjects . from Houston author Louis Aulbach to Norwegian genealogy specialist Blaine Hedberg to Houston adoption expert Dr Patricia Taylor . and the list goes on. Annual all-day seminars are well-attended. The TxSGS state conference in Houston will substitute for the seminar in 2017. An Ice Cream Social was added to the annual calendar in 2016. Several years ago two new microfilm scanners (ScanPro3000), and a photo scanner were purchased with CLF funds to upgrade capabilities of digitizing microfilm, photo, and slide images at Clayton.

In March 2013 a group of volunteers met at the library to determine an exact count of the number of volumes in the Clayton Library and to compare it to records in the card catalogue. Many hands made light work.

During the last few years CLF has worked especially diligently in promoting Clayton Library to a wider audience. CLF now has a spectacular Clayton Library backdrop for booth displays at local, state, and national conventions. CLF Board member Randy Pace successfully lobbied to get the Genealogy Roadshow, a nationally produced PBS TV series, to choose Houston as one of its production venues in November 2015.

In 2016, Clayton Library became the temporary home for life-size bronze statues of Augustus Chapman Allen and John Kirby Allen, the co-founders of Houston. The statues were later permanently installed in the space originally reserved for them in 1939 at the Houston City Hall entrance.

Over the years, staff members have retired, to be replaced by new faces . some of whom left their ~~t~~rainin wheels at Clayton and moved on to positions at other library systems. Likewise, some of our CLF Board members serve a term and then move on, while others search for more ways to serve the Library. The Angel program (donations toward periodical subscriptions) continues to thrive under the direction of Liz Hicks who started the program over twenty years ago. Donors step up each year to cover the cost of those subscriptions that Clayton Library would like to have.

For a more complete story of the first thirty years of Clayton Library Friends, sit down with the bound copy of the newsletters . found in the Texas section of the books at Clayton.

From the Library --

August 2017 -- Calendar of Events

Using Newspapers to Flesh Out Your Genealogy

Saturday, August 5, 2017 – 10:30am – 12pm

You've got your relatives' skeleton consisting of dates and places. This talk will show you how to go about creating a newspaper clipping file on a relative to put flesh on that skeleton. We will explore newspapers in their original paper form, on microfilm, and electronic versions. Presented by Clayton Library staff member Irene B Walters. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600. Adults/Teens.

Clayton Library Orientation – 2pm – 4pm

Saturday, August 19, 2017

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Saturday, October 28, 2017

Saturday, November 18, 2017

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.

CLAYTON LIBRARY CENTER FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004-6896

832-393-2600

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

In Memoriam –

We have lost two more of our avid genealogists:

Frances McBride Bones died on July 16th at age 85. She spent much time researching her family genealogy, and was a familiar face at Clayton Library.

Suzanne Sandlin Gay died July 18th. She was an active CLF Board member in 1999. After returning to Houston several years ago, Suzie volunteered at the Clayton House Welcome Desk until her health problems made this impossible. Her cheerful presence will be missed.

Special Donations –

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

In Memory Of:
Don Cain
Margaret Sperry Chapman
Suzanne Sandlin Gay
Johann F Gisch

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.

AmazonSmile Foundation –

Would you like an easy way to donate to Clayton Library Friends without it costing you anything?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.†

Clayton Library Friends, as an eligible non-profit organization, has completed the free registration with AmazonSmile. We realize that each donation will not be large sums of money, but every penny counts and we appreciate even the smallest donations.

Thank you for thinking of us.

A Silent Hero –

Quietly working on the periphery, Kathleen Dickerson is the ~~keeper~~ Keeper of the CLF Master Database. She accepted this project from David Lodge several years ago when David moved to Oklahoma. Voluntarily, she maintains the Clayton Library Friends membership records, tracks directed contributions, develops member mailing lists and other membership reports. The data she keeps directly supports the Board of Directors in the development of budgets, membership status, membership campaigns, individual member renewal reports, library resource acquisitions, mailing lists for both the posted and electronic newsletters, and more.

Kathleen's database contributions are generally not visible to the membership, but the CLF Board needs and uses the information she provides. She served for five years on the CLF Board as 1st VP membership and Secretary, and now is a very important support person for the smooth operation of Board activities. Thank you Kathleen!!