



THE Clayton Advocate

NEWSLETTER OF THE CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

Volume XXXII Number 1 February 2018

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2018. Houston had some extreme ups and downs in 2017 so we are certainly glad that the year has ended, and we can choose which parts we want to relive.

Clayton Library Friends had a few downs last year but nothing compared to the rest of Houston. We are just so very glad that the Clayton Library was not damaged very much by Hurricane Harvey. I just can't imagine having Clayton closed for months or even a year like some of the other branch libraries. I'm sure I would go through withdrawal if that were to happen. Clayton is of course my #1 choice because it really is an addiction.

This year Clayton Library Friends are programing around DNA. We have all heard about it, some of us have even tried it but how many of us really know what we have when our report shows up in front of us? I'm afraid I am one of those people. I tried to read it but it was as if it were written in hieroglyphics. I understood that my ancestors came from European countries but that was about all I got out of it.

This year we are starting small and moving up the ladder to provide a gradual better understanding of what that report says. There is still no assurance that I will be able to make heads or tails out of it but I am really going to try this time. Usually my eyes glaze over and I start thinking of Twinkies.

We are planning another Ice-Cream Social+so be sure you stay tuned for that date. CLF is also planning some other goodies for members. And, we are looking at some options that we can put on our website for ~~members only~~.

Did you know that Clayton Library staff has an annual event where they honor all the great people who volunteer to help out in the library? It has been a luncheon for the past few years.

I hope to see all of you at Clayton for our first meeting this year on February 10th. We can learn about DNA together.

Sue Yerby, President

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Clayton Library Friends, Inc.

Statement of Activities

January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

Revenue

Unrestricted Contributions	\$ 16,500
Temporarily Restricted Contributions	9,621
Membership Dues	7,800
Other Income	148

Total Revenue \$ 34,069

Expenditures

Current Programs	\$ 48,492
Administrative & General	15,862

Total Expenditures \$ 64,354

Net Operating Revenue (Loss) \$ -30,285

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2017

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Bank Account	\$ 140,762
Other Current Assets (Prepaid Expense)	4,048
Fixed Assets	21,243
Total Other Assets	1,216,628
(Investments, of which \$826,907 is the permanently-restricted Endowment)	

Total Assets \$1,382,681

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Total Liabilities	\$ 1,293
Equity	\$ 1,381,388

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$ 1,382,681

Thomas F Coughlin, Treasurer

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.

**Joan Addison,
Jacqueline Giles,
George & Jacquelyn Griggs,
Theresa Orta,
Lora 'Janie' Schexnayder,
Christina Sowell.**

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.

Special Donations

The following special donations were made to Clayton Library thru Clayton Library Friends since our November 2017 newsletter:

In Memory of:

**Mary Jane Carson,
Cynthia Anne Farlow Crigler,
Malcolm Dow,
Susan Clayton Garwood,
Patricia Clare Lamb,
Lou Lazartie,
Loren Martin,
Gus Mistrot,
Frank & Jean Orrison Nichols,
Laurence Shaner,
Frances Lenora Terry,
Frank & Mary 'Caroline' (SaShiel) Timko,
J William Toney,
Virginia Lee 'Ginny' Simms Toney.**

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, February 10, 2018, 10:15 am – 12:00 noon
Carriage House Meeting Room at the Clayton Library Center

Clayton Library Friends of Houston, Texas, will hold their first General Meeting of the New Year on Saturday, February 10, 2018 with registration beginning 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.

Understanding DNA Basics

by Andy Lee



DNA is all the rage. But what is it that makes this such a great record? And what is it that makes it a poor record? Understanding more about DNA can help you to know when to look to this amazing record for answers and when looking at DNA is counterproductive.

Learn about some of the science behind DNA, how it is passed on to each generation and how that relates to the genealogy problems we face. Simple examples (using LEGO) will be given to help you understand this complex subject. You'll finish this class knowing why DNA works the way it does as a genealogical record and have some extra tools to help answer your own DNA questions.

Andy has 30 years of family history experience. During high school, he wrote a contest winning essay about an American Revolution ancestor. As a member of Toastmasters International, Andy has achieved the status of Competent Communicator and has won several storytelling contests. He has given presentations throughout the US and Canada to professional organizations, university classes, local genealogy societies, family history conferences, and Boy Scout organizations. Andy's topics range beyond genealogy to include engineering, problem-solving, finances, business building and emergency preparedness. He's the co-author of *A Recipe for Writing Family History* and contributes to the FamilyHistoryFanatics.com YouTube channel.

* * * * *

Also mark your calendar for:

CLF 2018 future General Meetings in the Clayton Carriage House:
May 12 , August 11, and November 10.

Manager's Message



Help build the Clayton Library Book Collection!

Many may wonder why it is important to support the Clayton Library, and what your membership monies go to when the Friends receive them. As the Manager of one of the ten best family history research collections in the United States, I invite you to visit the Library to see your dues in action.

Many of the books on the shelf are bought with membership funds. The Clayton Library staff has a full-time collection development librarian, the library's Assistant Manager, Melissa Hayes. The Friends also have a collection development volunteer, John Dorroh. These two individuals, with a little help from the Clayton staff, discover, dig, search, and find books that are applicable to our collection. What that means is that all the books that are on the shelves are discovered one at a time by searching book catalogs, genealogy society publication lists, and other sources that identify materials that usually have names and dates within the covers of the book. And they just might be your ancestor.

You can help us discover material that should be added to our collection by suggesting titles for purchase. As a guide, the materials we add to our shelves include materials that identify a person in a specific time in a specific area. It might be a cemetery list. It might be a history of a military unit that has a listing of individuals. It might be an index to a specific set of records. I invite you to suggest titles for purchase.

In suggesting a title for purchase, it would be wonderful if you could provide the title, author, publisher, and cost. Some books might be out of stock, or no longer published. I can tell you that we will investigate the title you provide, make sure it is within our scope of collection, and if approved, we will mark it for purchase. One caveat is that we do not purchase written family history books, such as *The Thompson Family in Virginia*. We ask that those types of books be donated.

Yes, we do take donations of books. When those come in to the library, we evaluate them for our collection and make sure we don't already have that title. If the title donated is a duplicate to our collection, most often we will add it to the booksale table. Money from the books purchased from the booksale table, which is located behind the reference desk in the main library, is used for operation of the library for programming and more books.

Our job is to provide materials that are applicable to our users. Not everything is on the internet, and books are still being published. We invite you to suggest titles for purchase to help make the library collection even better.

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 May 2018 issue is April 24, 2018.

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

Volunteers at Clayton Library –

They're Back!

After a break of more than a year, Clayton Library has re-started its book digitization partnership with FamilySearch, continuing the dedicated efforts started in 2010 to identify and digitize books in our collection that are no longer under copyright (and thereby make them available to a much broader audience of researchers). Clayton Library is pleased to welcome the volunteer teams of Lee & Jean Staker and Elden & Cindy Condie to the Clayton digitization room in 2018.

Thank You 2017 Volunteers!

As we begin a new year, we'd also like to acknowledge the many people who volunteered their time in support of the library in 2017:

Mary Alvarez	Lesley Douthwaite	Mary Martin	Janice Shultz
Virginia Blalock	Ruby Dusek	Tom Matchett	Jean Staker
Sharline Boykin	Susan Garwood	Pat Metcalfe	Lee Staker
Nick Cimino	Sammie Graves	Pat Morgan	Anthony Startz
Louisa Collett	Elani Hantel	Sterling Mullins	Lana Sullivan
Lynda Collins	Glenda Hayes	Olivia Nance	Marilyn Weaver
Cindy Condie	Resa Hennings	Randy Pace	Sandy Wilbourn
Elden Condie	Robert Hickey	Pat Phillips	Jesse Vaughan
Kathryn Coughlin	Liz Hicks	Steve Price	Sue Yerby
Tom Coughlin	Mary Hollis	Armando Ramirez	Joyce Zongrone
Norma Davenport	Michael Lindee	Fidel Ramirez	
Kathleen Dickerson	Marjorie Lowe	Barbara Richards	
John Dorroh	Loren Martin	Jen Sansbury	

A few noteworthy statistics from 2017: Among other achievements, Clayton Library volunteers provided 1,404 hours of customer service desk assistance at the Clayton House and microprint desk (that's equivalent to 175 full 8-hour days!) and shelved 16,657 books (that's a ton of books!!!)

Many thanks to all those mentioned, and to all those who work quietly behind the scenes in any capacity to make our library a better place . your help is appreciated!

Steven Bychowski
Clayton Library Volunteer Coordinator

Have You Renewed Your Membership for 2018?

If you haven't already done so, we hope that you will renew your membership while you have it on your mind. Dues are still \$20 for a single membership, \$25 for two people at the same address. Go to our website, www.ClaytonLibraryFriends.org, and you'll find that the old, familiar paper membership form is still available. However, we've also moved into the 21st century and now have the capabilities for you to renew (or join) in our website . no paper to fill out, no postage to pay, etc.

If you wish to make an additional donation to Clayton Library Friends, to be used for the enrichment of the resources and facilities of Clayton Library, you may do so at the Donation portion of the website, or on the paper membership form when you renew your membership.

A gentle reminder, if you change your contact information (address, phone numbers, email address, etc) PLEASE let us know!!

Thank you for your support of Clayton Library!



BE AN ANGEL

Angel Donors Still Needed for 2018 Periodical Subscriptions 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.

American-Canadian Genealogical Society \$50
Annals of Wyoming (Wyoming State Hist Soc) \$45
Argyll Colony Plus (NC Scottish Heritage Soc) \$30
Carolinas Genealogical Society Quarterly \$18
Central Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly \$30

Chicago Genealogist \$25
Clarke County Hist. & Gen. Society Quarterly (Clarke Co, AL) \$30
Families (Ontario Genealogical Soc-Canada) \$100
Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly \$35
Genie (ARK-LA-TEX Genealogical Assn.) \$20
Illinois State Genealogical Society \$35
Indiana Genealogist \$30

Internet Genealogy \$32.95
Journal of the Afro-American Hist. & Genealogical Society \$45
Lifelines (Northern NY-American-Canadian) \$35
Maine Genealogist \$25
Montgomery Genealogical Society Quarterly (Alabama) \$25
Shelby County (Alabama) Historical Society Quarterly \$20
The Times (Central North Carolina-several counties) \$20
Topeka Genealogical Society Quarterly (Kansas) \$55

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

Joan Addison -- donation for renewal of the *St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

Tom & Kathryn Coughlin -- donation for renewal of *MASOG & Past Times* in memory of Dennis J Lonergan.

Betty Dunquez -- renewal of the *Oklahoma Historical Society* publication.

Ruby Dusek -- donation for renewal of the *Texas Czech Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

Glenda Kay Hayes -- renewal for the *Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy and History*, *Tap Roots* (East Alabama Genealogical Society) and *Old Newberry* (SC).

Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks -- donation to the Angel Program in memory of Susan Clayton Garwood.

Marjorie Lowe -- donation for renewal of *Goingsnake Messenger* (Goingsnake District Heritage Association . Oklahoma) in memory of her brother, Councilman William G Johnson.

Cynthia Millis-Horton -- donation for *Minnesota Genealogist*, *South Dakota Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and *Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Newsletter*.

Jennifer R. Sansburg -- donation for the *Alabama Genealogical Society*, and the *Minnesota Genealogist*.

Sandy Wilbourn -- donation to the Angel Program.

Sue Yerby -- donation for renewal of *Leaves and Branches* (Navarro Co. Genealogical Society), *Carolina Herald and Newsletter* (SC), and the *Franklin County Genealogical Society* (Texas).

Thank you Angels for your support of Clayton Library!

2017 Contributions and Donations

We wish to acknowledge and express our appreciation to the following individuals and organizations who, during the calendar year of 2017, have generously made financial gifts to Clayton Library Friendsq ongoing goal of enriching the resources and facilities of Clayton Library, Center for Genealogical Research.q

Contributor (\$1 - \$49)	\$1,630. 'Contributor' total
Kathy Adams	Elizabeth Lee Leifeste
Stephen P Barrett	M/M Arthur L Malone
Alan Harris Bath	Elaine Maniha
Terrie Bean-Minero	Harriet Lynn Mauzy
Bear Creek Genealogical Society	Marilyn J McCoy
Judith Blick Beitzel	Jessica Lynn McCreary
Georgianne Bigam	Amelia Jo McDonald
Mary Ann Broussard	Patricia McGinty
Gordon L Bunch	M/M John Evans McGowan
Linda Marie Burpee	M/M Dewey C Meeks
Maurice Bursey	Audrey J Middlebrooke
Gay E Carter	M/M David S Moyer
Sally Ann Corcoran	NS Women Descendants of the Ancient &
M/M Thomas Coughlin	Honorable Artillery Company . Texas Court
John G Coyle	Barbara Irene Padgitt
Eileen Ann Darbonne	Polish Genealogical Society of Texas
Kay & Gordon Dees	M/M Stephen J Rayne
Betty Dunquez	Barbara Jean Richards
Ruby Dusek	Sandra Rothe
Stuart Emery Jr	M/M Stephen F Russell
Mara H Fein	Betty Jean Ryman
Ann Fogelman	M/M Russell J Schexnayder
Sharon Fontenot	Billie June Shepherd
Barbara Kay Fouts	Christine A Smith
Barbara Fulton	M/M Darryl M Springs
Galveston County Genealogical Society	David Roger Swenson
Ray D George	Kenneth H Thomas Jr
Marcina L Gilliam	Sharon Lynn Timmons
Cheryl L H Grace	Caroline Vetterling
M/M Kenneth O Gullett	Margret Ann Vogt
Paula E Howe	Harry C Webb
Ronnie M Janecka	Margery Ann Wheeler
Frances C Kerr-Gibbons	Betty Jo White
Kelli King-Jackson	M/M J O Yerby
Dianne & John Kirk	
Sherrie J Kostura	
Doris Kosub	

continued on page 8

2017 Contributions and Donations

(continued from page 7)

Donor (\$50 - \$99)	\$1,953. 'Donor' total
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Joan Addison	Jill K Hastings-Johnson	Elvin Burnett Pippert Jr
Donald G Armstrong	Elizabeth M Hicks	Cannon H Pritchard
M/M Clyde N Black	Marks Hinton	Barbara Sue Reid/Dan
John C Blythe Jr	Jana Lee	Keith Seilheimer
Theodora Carter Boehm	Joan Lowe	M/M Charles Rivette
Patricia Ann Brice	Tom W Matchett	Karen Sue Schubert
Emily Jane Chiles	Barbara A Meche	Constance Teana Sechelski
Nancy Crawford	Michael Miller	M/M Merlin Eugene Shaner
Wayne & Gale Evans	Kathy Sue Mott	Herbert D Simons
Clare Farlow	M/M Kenneth R Nelson	Mary Anthony Startz
John Gay	NSDAR, Ann Poage Chapter	
Jane Gehring	Patricia Ann Phillips	

Patron (\$100 - \$249)	\$5,093.38 'Patron' total
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Patsy Andrews	Sandra Dee Kruse	Richard L Rose
Elizabeth Lee Ardell	M/M Gilbert K Lamb	M/M Russell Schulze
Bay Area Genealogical Society	Jeanine Lawrence	Glenn Edward Sewell
David & Jeana Carrier	Betty Jean Mann	M/M David Bryan Singleton
M/M Glen H Cress	Jeremy Martin	Judy LaVonne Stover
Kathleen A Dickerson	Wade Hawks Mayberry	Harvey L Turner
ExxonMobil Foundation	M/M Robert I McNeil	Toby Turner
Jane Lewis Fieldcamp	Cynthia Millis-Horton	Paula Rene White
Susan C Garwood	Mary Montague	M/M Doug Wilbourn
Robert N Hart	Phyllis Moody	Jo Ann Williams
John C Hicks	Mary Dale Parent	Joan E Worley
Novella L Hronek	Donald E Pusch	M/M Robert P Wright
LaDora & Eric Jernigan	Fidel G Ramirez	
Judy Johnson	Norman & Sally Reynolds	

Sponsor (\$250 - \$499)	\$1,661.76 'Sponsor' total
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Betty Cobb Batchelor
 John Shepherd Texas Chapter Daughters of Founders & Patriots of America
 Anne D Hart
 Benevity Community Impact Fund
 Houston Colony of the Magna Charta Dames & Barons
 Myra Nell Marsh

Benefactor (\$500 and above)	\$15,185. 'Benefactor' total
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Anonymous	M/M Loren Martin
Emile A Bussemey	NSDAR -- John McKnitt Alexander Chapter
Joan & George Thomas Charitable Fund	Stephen F Price
Chevron Matching Employee Funds	Carol B Stelling
M/M Wallace E Davenport	Paul B & Frances Lenora Terry Jr Family
Eastern Oklahoma District Library System	Foundation
Goodman Financial Corporation	Texas Research Ramblers Genealogical Society
Resa Hennings	M/M Jack G Westberry

Total Contributions for 2017 --\$25,975.14
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Documenting Your Research & Citing Your Sources --

Editor's note: In tribute to the late Emily Croom and her contributions and dedication to Clayton Library and Clayton Library Friends . we are reprinting her CLF newsletter article from February 2010.

The process of documenting our research is more than photocopying the title page of a book or writing its call number in our notes. It has important implications for our planning, research and evaluation, including the quality of our results. Citing sources is neither difficult nor optional! It is essential to the validity and credibility of our genealogy.

Good researchers keep track of their facts and where each was found. When we share our results with any other person, we must also share our sources. Where did I find each fact? How do I know it is true? Documenting means matching each fact with its source(s) so that others can find the same source and information. This process allows you to support your conclusions with legitimate evidence.



Where do you cite your sources? I suggest that you write your source information (enough to write a footnote) in your notes, with the date you used the material. (See examples below.) It is also appropriate to attach the source information to your charts and group sheets. It is essential to cite your sources on any chart or written compilation that you share with others. You never know when you or someone else will need to know where you found a specific piece of information.

In creating your source citation, try to answer these questions: Where did I get this fact? In what book or record? Who was the author? Who published the book? When and where? Where is the fact within the source? What page number? If the fact is in a public record, what is the larger set? Deed books of Harris County? What volume and page number? Did you read the record at the courthouse? Or on microfilm or a photocopy from a courthouse? Be as specific as you can about the identity of the record you used. If you found a record online, cite the website and date you used it. Consider some examples.

Fortunately, you have choices in the way you write the footnotes (or endnotes) that accompany your charts, tables, or compiled genealogy. You may prefer to begin a footnote with the name of the ancestor involved in the record you're citing or the person who created the record or book. Others prefer to list first the record itself. Do what makes sense to you, but be consistent in your style. Two accepted conventions in genealogy are the use of international dates (6 November 2009, or 11-6-2009) and this way of noting book and page number in multiple-book sets: Book 8:300, meaning Book 8, page 300.

This footnote begins with the name of the ancestor involved in the record: Huckleberry Greenapple, deed of gift to son Elderberry Greenapple, 12 June 1835, Old County, Virginia, Deed Bk. 8: 300, FHL [Family History Library] microfilm #425364. This is one way of citing the record first: Deed of gift, Huckleberry Greenapple to son Elderberry Greenapple, (same as above).

Especially in citing census records, I like to telescope down from the largest entity to the smallest, either the ancestor or the head of household. Example: US Census of 1880, roll 1305, Galveston County, Texas, Galveston, e.d. 66, sheet 18, 118 Post Office St., family 136, household of A. Dexter, with line 14 naming stepson Walter Carroll as son of Waller Dexter+ (sic), age 9; accessed online at Ancestry.com, 6 February 2006. I feel it is appropriate to cite the roll number so that anyone can find the same entry, either on microfilm or online.

For more on citing your sources, visit my website, (no longer available) our genealogy results are only as good as our sources and our evaluation of them.

Emily A. Croom

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 -- 6 pm

Thursday. 12 pm . 8 pm

Friday . 10 am . 5 pm

Saturday -- 10 am . 5 pm

(Closed on Sunday and Monday)

Clayton House Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday -- 10 am . 4 pm

Thursday . noon . 4pm

CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

P O Box 271078, Houston, TX 77277-1078

www.ClaytonLibraryFriends.org

In Memoriam –

Sadly, this black-bordered box is crowded with the names of too many of our long-time members of Clayton Library Friends.

Emily Anne Croom, 1943-2018, passed away January 21st in Bellaire, Texas. In addition to being an accomplished author, she was a Director on the CLF Executive Board in 2001 & 2002, a regular contributor of articles to the CLF newsletter, and the presenter of several programs for our CLF quarterly meetings and CLF sponsored Beginning Genealogy seminars. She generously donated a portion of her book sales to CLF, and when she became ill she donated several cartons of her *Genealogist's Companion* book to Clayton to put on the Donated-Duplicate book table in the library to generate funds for Clayton.

Malcolm Lindsey Dow, 1928-2018, a long-time CLF member, died peacefully at home in Port Neches, Texas on January 3rd following many health problems. After he retired, he became very interested in genealogy, and completed several books which he left to Clayton Library.

Norma Clare Leister Farlow, 1936-2018, died peacefully in Houston on January 5th. Another long-time member, Clare had renewed her CLF dues shortly before her passing.

Susan Clayton Garwood, 1961-2017, the great-granddaughter of William Clayton, passed away on December 24th. It was her motivation that led to the renovation of the three historic buildings in our Clayton Library complex.

Patricia Lamb, 1935-2017, died peacefully at St Dominic Village on November 27th. She was an active member and contributor to CLF for many years.

We have just learned from her daughter that **Amelia Jo Huskey McDonald**, 1935-2017, passed away May 3rd in Northfield, Illinois.

Gustave 'Gus' Antoine Mistrot III, 1929-2017, died on November 16th, 2017 after a long illness. He was active in a number of organizations. Recently he was honored by the Texas Society SAR for his work over the last 15 years to mark the graves of 200 veterans of the War Between the States who are buried in Washington, Glenwood, and Magnolia cemeteries in Houston.

From the Library –

February 2018 – Calendar of Events

DNA & the African-American Experience:

Creating networks to identify family connections

Saturday, February 10, 2018 – 10:30am – 11:30am

You have potentially thousands of DNA cousins, but identifying the ancestors you share or the family that connects you can be daunting. For African-Americans, the challenge is especially unique since many of their 3rd or 4th cousins share a common ancestor or family from the years of slavery, when many families were separated by sale, inheritance, and slaveholder migration. Join Clayton Staff member Franklin Smith as he presents tips and strategies on networking your DNA matches to identify shared ancestors or families connecting you to a common ancestor or ancestral location. Reservations required. Please call 832-393-2600. Adults/Teens.

Clayton Library Orientation

Saturday, February 17, 2018 – 10:15am – 11:30am

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. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600. Adults/Teens.

March 2018 – Calendar of Events

Faillte (Welcome), to Your Irish Ancestry!

Saturday, March 10, 2018 – 10:30am – 12 noon

In this talk we will explore some 21st 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.

Clayton Library Orientation

Saturday, March 17, 2018 – 10:15am – 11:30am

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. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600. Adults/Teens.

Using DNA to Topple Brick Walls

Saturday, March 31, 2018 – 10:30am – 11:30am

Join Clayton Library staff member Rodney Sam for a case study of how combining a paper trail with DNA results led to a previously unknown ancestor and confirmed relationships. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600. Adults/Teens.

From the Library –



African-American History Month with guest lecturer Tim Pinnick

Clayton Library is pleased to present Tim Pinnick . book author, article writer, and national speaker with more than 30 years of research experience. Since 2008 he has been an associate instructor in the biennial %Researching African American Ancestors+course at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research. He is at the intersection of history and genealogy, having presented historical papers at four large conferences, and served on the boards of the Association of Professional Genealogists and Federation of Genealogical Societies.

Reception – Friday, February 23, 2018 -- 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

No reservations required. Adults/Teens

Join us Friday evening at the African American Library at the Gregory School 1300 Victor Street, Houston, Texas 77019, for a reception featuring our guest lecturer Tim Pinnick

Lectures – Saturday, February 24, 2018 -- 10:30 am – 3:15 pm

Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600. Adults/Teens

10:30 am – 11:45 am

The WWI Draft Card: Don't Do African American Research Without It!

WWI registration cards contain valuable imbedded pieces of information that can become leads in solving some genealogical roadblocks for researchers, including African Americans. An understanding of the history and intent of registration is key to getting the most out of this resource.

11:50 am – 1 pm

Developing the Genealogy of an African American Community: A Case Study

Learn the details of a long-term project revolving around the collection of information on a group of African Americans in a specific community into a major database of integrated genealogical data, with the goal of constructing the genealogy of a community. Audience members will see how building such a database can be a worthwhile endeavor for any serious researcher.

1 pm – 1:55 pm – Lunch Break

2 pm – 3:15 pm

Using newspapers as Part of the African American Research Process

Individuals conducting African American research will find newspapers both black and mainstream, an extremely valuable part of their search strategy. Developed from years of work in this field, a compilation of 25 key tips, strategies, and resources will be shared with the audience, each designed to empower the researcher.