

THE Clayton Advocate

NEWSLETTER OF THE CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

Volume XXXIII Number 4 November 2019

Executive Board

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Clayton Library

Manager

Susan Kaufman



CLF President Resigns

On Tuesday evening, October 15th, CLF President Sue Yerby emailed the CLF Executive Board of her immediate resignation . citing family illness and her need to become a care-giver to her injured sister in East Texas.

Sue's term, which runs through 2020, will be completed by CLF 1st Vice-President, Lynda Collins.



**Join us at the CLF Annual Meeting
10:15 a.m., Saturday, November 9th
in the Clayton Carriage House.**

(Details are on pgs 3, 6, & 8)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Clayton Library Friends, Inc.

Statement of Activities

January 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019

Revenue

Unrestricted Contributions	\$ 17,844
Temporarily Restricted Contributions	2,630
Membership Dues	2,750
Other Income	0

Total Revenue \$ 23,224

Expenditures

Current Programs	\$ 82,403
Administrative & General	14,943

Total Expenditures \$ 97,346

Net Operating Revenue (Loss) (\$ 74,122)

Statement of Financial Position

As of September 30, 2019

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Bank Account	\$ 115,601
Other Current Assets	30
Fixed Assets	7,967
Total Other Assets	1,157,162
(Investments, of which \$826,907 is the permanently-restricted Endowment)	

Total Assets \$1,280,760

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Total Liabilities (accounts payable)	\$ 269
Equity	\$ 1,280,491

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$ 1,280,760

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.

**Mary Barrow,
Maudie Boston,
Virginia Gunter Brown,
Christine Herron,
Hispanic Genealogy Society of Houston,
Susan Hoover,
JoAnn McCracken,
Connie Pine,
Selena Post,
Georgina Salazar,
Linda Thielepape,
Mildred & Bela Toth,
Mara Wilson.**

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.

Special Donations

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

In Honor of:

Mitchell Clendening

In Memory of:

Charlotte Wacker

A Reminder --

If you change your contact information (address, phone numbers, email address, etc.) PLEASE let us know at 1vp@claytonlibraryfriends.org Thank you!!

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.

State of Clayton Library --



Speaker:

Susan Kaufman, Manager
Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research

Annual Meeting
Clayton Library Friends

Saturday, November 9, 2019
10:15 a.m.

Clayton Library Carriage House
5300 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77004

You are invited to the Annual Meeting of the Clayton Library Friends on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 10:15 am. The speaker will be Susan Kaufman, Manager of the Clayton Library, Center for Genealogical Research. Her talk, **"State of Clayton Library,"** will enlighten us about current educational programming and activities at the library -- which will include ideas and technologies which have been implemented as well as plans for the near future.

You will also hear about important acquisitions at the library which can help you in your quest to uncover your family history. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful research facility right here in Houston. The Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research is one of the top genealogical research libraries in the United States. That prominence is due to the expertise and knowledge of Sue Kaufman and her talented staff, as well as the volunteer and financial support of Clayton Library Friends. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear more about Clayton Library.

All are welcome to this free program. Refreshments will be served.
Clayton Library Friends hopes to see you there!!!

Mark your calendar for:

CLF General Meeting . 10:15 a.m. -- Saturday, February 8

CLF Board Meeting . TBD . Clayton House, 2nd floor

Members are invited to attend CLF Board meetings.

Please let us know at least a week ahead of the meeting if you wish to speak to the Board . so we can add you to the agenda.

Manager's Message -



Hello Everyone!

Happy Fall ☺ or for us in Houston, happy a few days of weather we can tolerate! Many of you know I am a Midwestern gal. That means really missing the change of the seasons, the crispness in the air, the changing landscape, and wearing warmer clothes.

Well, although we really don't have the traditional Fall here in this part of Texas, I am really excited this year. At the library we have had some changes, we have an excitement and crispness in the air, and most exciting is we have a change in landscape!!!

At long last, we have been renovated on the first floor of the library! I want to start by thanking the Clayton Library Friends for providing over \$40,000 for the new and improved technology that is part of the renovation. This includes 21st century projection televisions so we can show clear, crisp presentations in our newly renovated meeting room space. This also includes collaboration tables with technology, some cool electronic blackboards that you can pair to computers and phones and share technology. We also are getting new furniture, a new reference desk, all-in-one computers and much more. The renovation was done completely with a private fund donation in addition to the generous CLF funds donation.

Although the renovation is not complete yet, and if you watch renovation shows on HGTV, you understand, it should be done in the next few months. I will say, just walking into the library with the new carpet is a striking experience, along with some of the other pieces of the renovation in place has already made a big change.

For more information regarding the renovation and for some photos, please read my longer article in this newsletter starting on page 12. At this point, I would just like to make sure that I thank each and every one of you for your continued support of the Clayton Library through your membership dues and gifts. Additionally, all the time and effort of the volunteers who help us daily; the CLF board; the researchers who visit; and to all of you who hold the library near and dear to your heart and are spreading the word about our collection. Thank you!

I hope the change of the seasons and the upcoming slow time of the year will give you an opportunity to come and visit the library and see the changing landscape for yourself.

Enjoy the Holidays and remember to share stories. Please, then come to the library to research all the new stories and relatives you discover during the family get-togethers!

Happy Holidays!

Sue Kaufman
Manager, Clayton Library

Learn about the happenings and special presentations at Clayton Library by subscribing to the FREE Clayton Library electronic newsletters. To sign up for these genealogy newsletters, visit 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 February 2020 issue is January 25, 2020.

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 – Jessica Collins, Norma Davenport, Elsa Schmieder



BE AN ANGEL

Angel Report and Donations Needed

The list of periodicals below are ones Clayton Library wishes to receive on an ~~as~~ published+basis, and that are in excess of their periodical budget. If you wish to earn your ~~wings~~+by donating for one or more of these periodicals, please contact: Liz Hicks, 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030; phone: (713) 944-1118, or e-mail: erootrot@usa.net. All donations to the Angel Program will be acknowledged in the CLF Newsletter, unless otherwise requested. Memorial donations will be acknowledged upon request. Checks should be made payable to Clayton Library Friends, and mailed to P.O. Box 271078, Houston, TX 77277-1078. Please write ~~%Angel~~+on your check.

2020 Angel subscriptions (periodicals) needed for Clayton Library

<i>American-Canadian Genealogical Society</i> \$50	<i>Journal</i> (German-Texan Heritage Soc quarterly)\$40
<i>Annals of Wyoming</i> (Wyoming State Hist Soc) \$60	<i>Kin Hunters</i> (Sandusky, Ohio) \$12
<i>Argyll Colony Plus</i> (NC Scottish Heritage Soc) \$30	<i>Le Raconteur</i> (Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiane) \$15
<i>Carolina Herald and Newsletter</i> (So. Carolina) \$25	<i>Les Voyageurs</i> (German-Acadian Coast Hist. & Gen. Society) \$15
<i>Carolinas Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> \$18	<i>Leaves and Branches</i> (Navarro Co TX) \$13
<i>Central Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> \$30	<i>Licking Lantern</i> (Licking County, Ohio) \$19
<i>Ceske Stopy</i> (Texas Czech Genealogical Soc.) \$25	<i>Lifelines</i> (Northern NY-American-Canadian) \$35
<i>Chronicles of Oklahoma</i> (Oklahoma Hist Soc) \$35	<i>Maine Genealogist</i> \$25
<i>Clarke County Hist. & Gen. Soc. Quarterly</i> (AL) \$40	<i>Minnesota Genealogist</i> (MN Gen. Soc.) \$35
<i>Collin County Chronicles</i> (Collin County, TX) \$25	<i>Montgomery Genealogical Soc. Quarterly</i> (AL)\$25
<i>Families</i> (Ontario Genealogical Soc.-Canada) \$100	<i>Rodziny</i> (Polish Genealogical Soc of America) \$35
<i>Family Tree Magazine</i> (United Kingdom) \$100	<i>Shelby County Historical Society Quarterly</i> (AL)\$20
<i>Franklin County Genealog. Soc. Quarterly</i> (TX) \$20	<i>South Dakota Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> \$23
<i>Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> \$35	<i>St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> (MO) \$40
<i>Goingsnake Messenger</i> (Goingsnake District Heritage Assn.-Oklahoma) \$20	<i>Topeka Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> (KS) \$55
<i>Idaho Genealogical Society Quarterly</i> \$35	<i>Vermont Genealogy</i> \$25
<i>Indiana Genealogist</i> \$30	<i>Wisconsin State Genealogical Society</i> \$30
<i>Internet Genealogy</i> \$32.95	

Thank you to those who have earned their “wings” since the last newsletter!!

Anonymous . Donation for renewal of *Connecticut Maple Leaf* and *Connecticut Ancestry*

Alfred Davis IV . Donation for the Angel Program

Judith JudyqHarrison . Donation for renewals of the *Chicago Genealogist* in memory of Daniel and Clara Nelson, and the *Illinois Genealogical Society Quarterly* in memory of her Millhouse Family.

Christine Herron . Donation for renewal of *Rhode Island Roots*.

Patricia Ann Phillips . Donation for the Angel Program.

SLATE OF NOMINEES

Election of 2020 CLF Executive Board members

Annual Meeting on November 9, 2019

Clayton Library Friends members elected to the Executive Board at the Annual Meeting will assume office on January 1, 2020. The term of office for Board members (except the Treasurer) is two years.



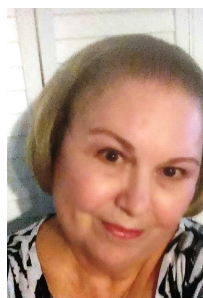
Jessica Collins – 1st Vice President/Membership

A former IT professional and technical writer in the oil and gas industry, Jessica now uses her analytical and writing skills to document ancestors rather than software bugs. She rediscovered genealogy after becoming a stay-at-home mom and has been pursuing family history since 2012. Jessica is a member of the Texas State Genealogical Society and recently began assisting with their journal *Stirpes* as a contributing editor. She is an alumnus of the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research (TIGR) 2019 - Advanced Southern Research track and is now impatiently awaiting her call off the ProGen Study waiting list. Jessica blogs about her research at Histortree.com.



Resa Nichols Hennings -- Treasurer

Resa, an Ohio native, was employed as a law office Administrator/Paralegal before moving to the Houston area in 1989. As an active genealogist for over forty years, she has traveled to numerous counties and libraries for research and has attended local and national conferences and seminars. As a member of the DAR she has served as Chairman of various committees in her chapter. Resa is a Charter Member of the Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS), and, in that organization, has held a number of offices. She has attended RootsTech the last several years. She has completed the H&R Block Income Tax Prep course and worked there several tax seasons. Resa has been a member of Clayton Library Friends for many years, and served on several committees. She served as CLF Treasurer from 2012 thru 2016.



Glenda Hayes – Director, Correspondence

Glenda, a retired master-degreed history teacher, has been researching her family for 40 years. She has been a member of the Clayton Library Friends for many years and currently serves as the CLF Director of Correspondence. She volunteers at the Clayton House on Tuesdays and has been an "Angel" to several publications for years. She served on the CLF Nominating Committee in 2015. Besides CLF, Glenda is currently a member of the Houston Genealogical Forum (Corresponding Secretary 2015-16, Recording Secretary 2016-17), Texas State Genealogical Society (Nominating Committee 2015), the National Genealogical Society, East Texas Genealogical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



John Dorroh – Director, Acquisitions

John, a native of Houston, attended William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia, University of Houston, SMU, and Uppsala University in Sweden. He has been a long-time active member of Clayton Library Friends serving in numerous offices on the Board and as CLF President in 1995 and 1996. He has been a very active participant on the CLF Acquisitions Committee and is currently completing one term as Director of Acquisitions . helping to increase the selection of genealogical reference books in the Clayton Library collection. The Nominations committee recommends that he be re-elected to this position for another two-year term

Current Volunteer Areas and Projects --

If you would like to help in any of these areas or have questions, contact Elsa Schmieder, the CLF Director of Volunteers, or Steven Bychowski, the Clayton Library Volunteer Coordinator, at Steven.Bychowski@houston.tx.gov, 832-393-2600. We look forward to working with you!

The **Clayton Library Friends refreshments team** helps provide snacks and refreshments for any of our quarterly Clayton Library Friends meetings or other library or CLF events. You can contribute on a one-time or an ongoing basis. Elsa Schmieder is the coordinator; let me know if interested.

Microprint Desk

Currently there is a vacancy that needs to be filled on the 1st Saturday of the month, 3pm-5pm. A genealogy background would be very helpful.

Shelving Volunteer

Shelving books, and giving limited reference assistance. Training is provided. The typical time commitment requested for shelving volunteers is a 2-hour shift one day per week.

Clayton House Welcome Desk

The duties include greeting visitors, giving limited reference help, and assisting with microfilm readers and printers. Training is provided for all duties. Helpful skills would include general experience in genealogical research, basic computer skills, and familiarity with microfilm readers and printers.

Outreach Assistant

Outreach Assistants deliver brochures and promotional materials to neighborhood libraries, community centers, cultural organizations, etc. to help promote Clayton Library's programs and services. Duties include identifying easily-accessible locations that have display racks for materials and a clientele that would likely be interested in learning more about genealogy, and dropping off brochures at these locations on either a one-time or ongoing basis. Training will be provided. Access to a vehicle may be required. Scheduling is very flexible.

Book Sale Assistant

Book Sale Assistants work with the Donated-Duplicate books that are temporarily stored at the Clayton House and help list these books for inventory and inclusion in the Clayton Library's book sale. Duties include sorting the books by state or geographic area on shelves and using a laptop computer to enter book information into pre-set tables in a Word document. Training will be provided. Helpful skills include good visual acuity and attention to detail. Some bending, stooping, and light lifting may be required. This activity involves working on a laptop computer in the stacks at the Clayton House. Scheduling is flexible but subject to the days/times that the Clayton House is open. A commitment of 8 hours per month is requested.

Periodicals Assistant

Periodicals Assistants help with organizing and labeling Clayton Library's bound and unbound periodical collections to make these collections more visible and accessible to library patrons. This would be a good activity for someone who wants to become more familiar with genealogy periodicals, or who enjoys organizing. Duties include inspecting, labeling, organizing, and shifting periodicals, and working with periodicals on specific projects identified by the Periodicals Supervisor. Training will be provided. Helpful skills include good visual acuity and attention to detail. Some bending, stooping, and light lifting may be required. This activity involves working with periodicals in the stacks or in the compact shelving in the staff workroom. Scheduling is very flexible. A commitment of 8 hours per month is requested.

Proposed Addition to the CLF Bylaws –

The CLF Executive Board tries very hard to adhere to the CLF Bylaws . but sometimes there is an unforeseen problem. This occurred on May 11th when Houston was in the path of very heavy rain, and the weather bureau told everyone to stay home . and be safe.

The CLF meeting was cancelled for that day with the intention to re-schedule it within the next few weeks. However, that proved to be impossible as all logical nearby venues were already tightly scheduled for the end of May and early June. The result was that no May meeting was held . which violated CLF Bylaw Article V -- Section 5.1. Therefore, the CLF Executive Board is recommending the following updated version of this Bylaw.

Article V – Meetings:

Section 5.1:

Regular meetings of the Friends shall be held quarterly in the months of February, May, August, and November, unless severe weather circumstances or natural or man-made disasters exist which would expose attendees to dangerous travel conditions. In the case of such circumstances, the meeting will be rescheduled if feasible. The Clayton Library Friends membership will be notified via electronic means in advance of the meeting that the meeting has been cancelled.

2020 Membership Campaign --

Have you seen the renovation in progress at Clayton Library? It's brighter, more comfortable and functional, and has updated technology to help you with your research. It's exciting to see the Library environment begin to match the superior service and knowledge provided by our excellent library staff.

Clayton Library Friends proudly contributed funds to purchase technology and other items to extend the City of Houston's restoration budget.

Your membership dues and many generous donations are used to support Clayton Library with book purchases and staff education. This stretches the annual City of Houston budget immensely. Clayton Library could never have acquired 100,000 books, 2,000 periodical titles, and an extensive microfilm collection without the support of CLF funds and volunteer assistance.

You will be receiving an e-mail reminder in early December. Membership renewal is easy. Just go to CLF website to renew and pay online or you can complete the membership form at the end of this newsletter and mail it with your check.

If you have any questions about your membership, feel free to email us at 1vp@claytonlibraryfriends.org
CLF Membership Committee

Just for fun –

An official was filling out a government form for an alien and stated, "Your nationality? you're French aren't you?" "No," informed the alien, "Both my mother and father were German, therefore I am German." The official stuttered, "But you were born in France?" "So what's that got to do with it," said the alien, "If your dog had puppies in a stable, you wouldn't call them horses."

quoted from an old Holiday Inn Magazine

At the Library –

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held on **Monday December 9th (12pm-2pm)** at the Clayton Library Main Building. Current volunteers who have logged hours this year, as well as CLF board members, are invited to attend. Look for email invitations to be sent out in early November.

This annual social event offers a great opportunity for volunteers to enjoy a meal and get to know their fellow volunteers in a fun and relaxed environment. If you've volunteered your time with the library in any capacity, we thank you! We hope to see you at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon!

Steven Bychowski
Clayton Library Volunteer Coordinator

Library Acquisitions

Titles of new acquisitions to the library are listed by quarter on our Clayton Library Friends website. The third quarter of 2019 saw an increase of 129 titles, giving a total of 631 for this year.

November & December 2019 – Calendar of Events

Clayton Library Orientation

Saturday, November 16, 2019 – 10:15am – 11:30am

Saturday, December 21, 2019 – 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.

FamilySearch Online Genealogical Help From Home –

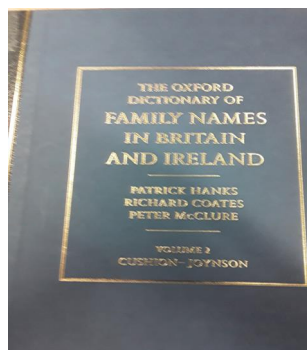
At www.familysearch.org, sign in with your FamilySearch account (FREE), click 'Help'(upper right hand corner), choose 'Community' from pull down menu. When the page comes up click 'Groups'. You will see the various groups or research communities you can join.

<https://community.familysearch.org/s/> Examples of some of the many Groups/Communities: Germany, Italy, Adoption, various US states, etc.

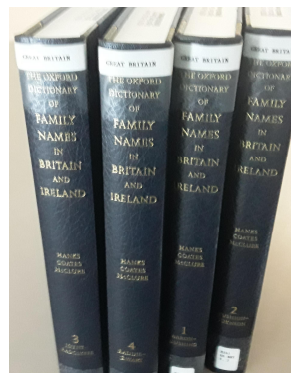
If you have special skills or knowledge, you can contribute by answering questions or posting announcements.

Focusing on the International Collection –

The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland



The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland was recently acquired by Clayton Library as a reference to locating the locale of different surnames in the British Isles. The series is a four-volume set located in the Great Britain section of the international collection, call number 929.4, H 241, GR BRT. This article will give a very brief review of what is contained in the collection and how it can be used by a genealogist.



The series is the product of a project for family names which is based at the Bristol Centre for Linguistics at the University of the West of England in Bristol. The project has been funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council of Great Britain. Many authors have contributed to the work, the principal three authors being Patrick Hanks -- editor-in-chief, Richard Coates -- principal investigator, and Peter McClure -- principal etymologist.

The researcher is directed to the comprehensive introduction in volume 1 which explains the methodology in selection of surnames, a list of sources, a glossary, and a listing of counties, islands, other territories, and their abbreviations. The surnames are listed in alphabetical order. With each surname, different variants in spelling are given. Current frequencies of the surname are taken from the latest census of Great Britain (2011). Next is the frequency of the surname in the 1881 census of Great Britain. The 1881 census of Ireland no longer exists. Along with the 1881 frequency is the main location or locations in Great Britain in 1881. This can lead the researcher to a locale where further research can be done on that particular name.

Further historical and genealogical information is given next in the surname article, and finally there is a list of early bearers of the name and the source in which the name occurs. The list of sources in the introduction is massive. Over 40 pages of sources, including books, government documents, the IGI, private records, are given in the list of sources in Volume 1. Clayton Library owns many of these sources, but it is important to check each one on the Internet, because many of these older records have been digitized and are available online, many of them with no cost.

The following examples that I am using are three of the surnames which I research to illustrate use of this series.

Surname -- *Olive*

Currently in Great Britain there are 1,269 occurrences of the name in 2011 and 2 in Ireland. In 1881 in Great Britain, there were 1,072 instances of the surname. The main locations where the name occurred prominently are Lancashire, Gloucestershire, and Somerset. The first historical source given is one Richard Olive, in 1279, in the Oxon Hundred Rolls. Checking the sources index, this source is the *Oxon Hundred Rolls*, edited by E. Stone and P. Hyde, published in 1968 as *The Oxfordshire Hundred Rolls of 1279*, in the series *Oxfordshire Record Series 46*, published by the Oxfordshire Record Society.

continued on page 11

Surname -- *Treadwell*

Currently in Great Britain, there are 1,224 instances of the name and 32 in Ireland. In 1881, there were 777 instances of the name in Great Britain, the majority of the occurrences in the South Midlands. One Richard Tredewelle is found in the Patent Rolls of Nottinghamshire. These patents rolls can be searched online at <http://sdrclib.uiowa.edu/patentrolls>.

Surname . *Darragh*, variants being Dorroh, Darrow, Darroch.

This is primarily an Irish name, but there were 123 of this surname in Great Britain in 1881. The surname article does give the major Irish location in the years 1847-1864 unsourced as Ulster, particularly County Antrim. The article also gives the Celtic translation of the name as "Black One of the Oak" which agrees with the Dorroh family history book, *Pioneers In Their Own Right*, by Henry P. Johnston, which relates that the original immigrant came to South Carolina from County Antrim, and also gives the same translation for the surname. The sources for some of the individuals are the IGI, available online or at Clayton Library on microfiche, and also the Ordinance Survey Memoirs, which are available in book form at Clayton Library.

The best way to use this series is to choose a name that you are researching or that you are familiar with and look it up. Then check the sources given to see if Clayton Library owns the sources, either in book form or microfilm, and then check worldcat.org on the Internet to see where copies of the source might be found or to see if the source can be found online.

A much longer article could be written on this important four-volume set. This article was written to give a brief description of how the information was compiled and a few examples to illustrate the surnames. The list of sources itself is extremely lengthy and very detailed, leading a researcher to other sources for his research. This work is a very important addition to the Great Britain and Ireland collection found in the International section at Clayton Library.

Review by John Dorroh, CLF Director - Acquisitions

**Clayton Library
Center for Genealogical Research**

5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004-6896

832-393-2600

www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton

Library Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday . 10 am . 6 pm

Thursday. 12 pm . 8 pm

Friday, Saturday . 10 am . 5 pm

(Closed on Sunday and Monday)

Clayton House Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday -- 10 am . 2 pm

Thursday . noon . 4pm

CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

P O Box 271078, Houston, TX 77277-1078

www.ClaytonLibraryFriends.org

New Space – Same Great Service! –

Sue Kaufman . Clayton Library Senior Manager

Many of you have been long time customers of one of the 5 best family history research collections in the United States. Many of you are newcomers to the Library. There are a couple of comments that we often hear at the reference desk.

“I’ve been coming to this library since the collection was over in the House”

“It’s my first time here at the library”

As I begin my 14th year as the Senior Manager of the Clayton Library, I would like to invite our long-time customers and those who are new to the location to come to the library. Of course, we offer the best personal attention to your specific genealogy question from our expert staff. The library has some of the best reference librarians in the field. They have a wealth of knowledge, and will work with you individually. The library has an international collection of research materials in book and microfilm format; databases to help you; and the library is a %library Partner+of FamilySearch so you can view restricted digital records at the library. And you can attend programming on topics that give you insight and a deep understanding of resources.

The past 6 months have been busy. First, the old information desk was removed. For several months, we had an empty space where the old %first point of contact+was. A cardboard box covered some on-the-floor electrical pieces. We put a desk near the exit, so customers still went through the %gate+ This was like that for a while. We thought things were going to take another number of years for construction to happen.

But then things began to happen. The old carpet was replaced with new cool-looking carpet. The customer break room and the common meeting room were constructed to create a new programming space inside the library that seats 30! Some of you enjoyed this room in our recent extended hours for Genealogy After Dark.

Some of the things to come include new computers, new collaboration spaces, other new technology, our new reference desk, and some other things that won’t be revealed just yet. The finalization of the project should take a few more months. We hope that not revealing everything will keep you coming back to see what has happened since the last time you visited.

The first floor of the library used to look like this.



From the stairs looking out,
see the old carpet and meeting rooms on the



This is where the information desk used to be,
looking down the hallway to the Managers Office

And now it looks like this.



Looking down from the stairs .
new carpet, new computer tables.



Our new in-the-main-library meeting room!

Wow, right??? And there is still more to come!

One of the biggest goals of the renovation is to attract new researchers across all demographics to the library. We are planning on doing that with innovative programming, outreach and word of mouth. That is where all of you come in.

We know that you tell your friends and family you are interested in genealogy. In fact, we know that you share your excitement of that latest find with anyone who will listen. We also know that when you tell co-workers, neighbors, people in the grocery store line . many of them say %you know, I have a story about my family+and then begin to share it with you.

To help us, we ask that you bring those people to the library. We are happy to help them begin their research. All you need to do is offer a ride to the library to them. You can then go on your way doing your research, and one of the nine of us at the library will take them by the hand, show them the ropes, and get them excited. You then have a research buddy!

These are exciting times at the library. We hope you visit us to share in that excitement. To learn more about what we are doing visit us at the Houston Public Library Facebook page, the Houston Public Library Instagram account, or subscribe to the Clayton Library online newsletters. In fact, you can even give us an old-fashioned phone call to see what is going on!

Just come on down and find your family!

For more information visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/houstonlibrary/>

<https://www.instagram.com/houstonpubliclibrary/>

<https://houstonlibrary.org/find-it/readers-link/newsletters-all-interests> (choose link to Special Collections)

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Clayton Library Friends

*Working together to enrich the resources and facilities of the
Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research*

**Membership
2020**

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(If retired, please list previous occupation.)

Mailing Address: _____

Street, PO Box, Apartment No.

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Email: _____

Clayton Library Friends does not share the membership list.

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