Facility
The Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research covers a 2-city block area in the heart of the Museum District in Houston, at 5300 Caroline Street. Previously housed in the Julia Ideson Building in downtown Houston at the original Houston Public Library, 500 McKinney, the genealogy collection was moved to the Clayton House in 1968. This property was donated to the Houston Public Library by William Lockhart Clayton, a prominent statesman and business leader and his wife, Susan Ada Vaughan.

William Clayton (1880 –1966) was successful in the cotton trading business in the 20th century, owning the Anderson, Clayton and Co. Cotton Company. During WWII, President Truman appointed Clayton as the first Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, 1946 – 1947. As Mr. Clayton strongly supported American economic aid to rebuild Europe after the War, he had a major role in shaping the Marshall Plan in 1947.

The continued growth of the collection and tremendous increase in use stimulated plans for a larger facility, and the new Main Building was opened in 1988. The property includes four buildings; the main library, which houses the research collection, the historic Clayton Home, and two outbuildings, the Clayton Guesthouse and the Clayton Carriage House.

The two-story Main Building contains 23,000 square feet. The first floor houses the geographic genealogy research book collection, organized alphabetically by state; small conference rooms; seating for 100 customers; and work areas. The second floor houses an extensive microprint collection. Additionally, the unique collection of over 15,000 published and unpublished family histories can be found here.

The Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research is one of three Special Collections of the Houston Public Library; the others being the Houston Metropolitan Research Center and the African American Library and Archive at the Gregory School. The Clayton Library is recognized as one of the nation’s top genealogical research collections.

The collection houses an extensive collection covering the entire United States, as well as international sources for identifying immigrant origins in Europe, Canada, and Mexico. In addition, Clayton has 100% of its books in open stacks for public access. The library has nearly 150,000 research volumes, offers over 3000 periodical titles, and has an international microfilm collection.

As a partner of FamilySearch.org books that are not covered by copyright law have been digitized and can be accessed at the FamilySearch Digital Library. www.familysearch.org/books The availability is a fraction of the overall collection. A direct link to the Clayton Library materials digitized by FamilySearch can be found on the Houston Public Library Digital Archives. https://digital.houstonlibrary.org/
As a FamilySearch affiliate library, restricted images not viewable from home, but available in an affiliate library, can be viewed at the Clayton Library.

The staff of the Clayton Library are dedicated to helping individuals engaging in family history research by

- Working one on one with each researcher on the individualized research question
- Acts as a resource themselves, providing information, sources, and referrals specific to the research question
- Educate researchers on use and value of resources through reference services and presentations
- Work with groups to provide education to those groups
- Creating a strong international family history research collection in book, microprint, and online formats

We invite you to contact us directly by visiting, phoning, or emailing for further information.

5300 Caroline St
Houston, TX 77004
832-393-2600
cla.reference@houstontx.gov

SOURCES MENTIONED IN PRESENTATION

Houston Public Library Website
www.houstonlibrary.org
Library Card: Get a MyLink card button on the home page
Clayton hours, location, etc.: Locations > Special Collections > choose individual Special Collections Location
Programming: Events > all events > search genealogy OR category “History & Research”
Genealogy Databases, YouTube; Handouts, etc.: Research > Genealogy
Subscribe to Newsletters: https://houstonlibrary.org/clayton > subscribe to newsletter

Houston Digital Archives
digital.houstonlibrary.org

FamilySearch Digital Library
www.familysearch.org
search > drop down menu “books”
From the Houston Digital Archives: scroll to Clayton Library link > Clayton Library Digital Objects

Cuban papers
https://www.loc.gov/item/mm81017376/
transcripts of material found in the Cuban national archives pertaining to Spanish colonial rule in Louisiana and the Floridas. Includes correspondence of the Spanish governor of Louisiana, Bernardo de Gálvez, with José de Gálvez, the secretary of the Indies; and Felipe Fonsdeviela, marques de la Torre, and Diego José Navarro García de Valladares, the capitanes-generales at Havana. Also includes an index of correspondence of the capitanes-generales of Cuba; correspondence of traders operating under Spanish protection, in particular William Panton of Panton, Leslie and Company; material concerning commerce, political relations with local Indian tribes, Spain’s role in the American revolution, and Spanish relations with the U.S.; and miscellaneous documents, government orders, and land grants.
**Natchez trace collection**
The Natchez Trace Small Manuscripts Collection, circa 1780-1949, is comprised of correspondence, letterpress books, ledgers and financial records, legal papers, medical case books, copy books, lecture notes, school registers, diaries, newspaper clippings, photographs, sheet music, and maps.

**Shane Manuscripts**
1780 – 1860 oral history and document from the Ohio River Valley

**Panton Leslie and company**
Panton, Leslie & Company, established in 1783 by Scottish merchants William Panton, John Leslie, and Thomas Forbes, was a major mercantile firm that played a significant role in shaping political and military events along the United States' border with colonial Florida in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

**Records of the Ante Bellum Southern Plantations**
The Records of Ante-bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution Through the Civil War is a broad collection of documents, which had previously been in various libraries around the country, which deals with everyday life on plantations in the antebellum South. The fourteen series collection is on 35mm microfilm.

**La Guía de las hojas de servicios, 1786-1800, de las provincias de la nueva españa y de las Floridas y Luisiana del Archivo General de Simancas = The CLF guide to military service records, 1786-1800, of the provinces of New Spain and of Florida and Louisiana from the Archivo General de Simancas**
Eleven rolls of microfilm of military service records, from 1786-1800, of the provinces of New Spain and of Florida and Louisiana from the Archivo de Simancas, and a printed guide to the collection.

**Catálogo XXII del Archivo de Simancas : Secretaría de Guerra (siglo XVIII) : hojas de servicios de América**
Alphabetical surname index of men who rendered military service in Spanish colonial America during the 18th century. Includes full name, position, name of regiment, years of service, and location of original service records in the Archivo General de Simancas. Clayton Library Call number A673 SPAIN

**Indice de los expedientes matrimoniales de militares y marinos : que se conservan en el Archivo General Militar, 1761-1865, v. 1 & 2**
Alphabetical surname listing of women who intended marriage with men of the Spanish Army and Navy; abstracts of their petitions. Vol. 1 includes over 5000 names for the period 1818-1833; v. 2 contains 4,945 names for the period 1834-1845. Includes an alphabetical surname index of the intended spouses. Clayton Library Call number O15 SPAIN

**Sagrada mitra de Guadalajara Antiguo Obispado de la Nueva Galicia : Expedientes de la serie de matrimonios extractos siglos XVII-XVIII by María de la Luz Montejano Hilton**
Extracts of marriages and marriage dispensations from the Sagrada Mitra de Guadalajara, 17th & 18th centuries; covers a large portion of Mexico and Texas. Clayton Library Call number M775 MEXICO