

Genealogy Room Newsletter

April 2024

Monday: 9a-8p

Tues, Wed, Thurs: 9a-6p

Fri & Sat: 9a-5p

Our first two-page issue!

Genealogy & Local History Library

Conroe Central Branch – Upstairs

104 I-45 North Conroe, TX 77301

936/522-2138 countylibrary.org/genealogy

The Genealogy Room, with the help of volunteer Cecily Kelly, nominated local business owner Clarence W. Lewis, Jr. for a Texas Treasures Business Award. This is the first of what we hope are many successful nominations, highlighting our support and dedication to promoting the history of Montgomery County and its people. The Texas Treasures Business Award is sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission, paying tribute to the state's well-established businesses and their exceptional historical contributions to communities across Texas.



Pictured, left to right:
Sarah Henry, Deputy Chief of Staff and District Director for State Representative Will Metcalf; **Creisha Lewis Cotton**; **Laura Politte**, Genealogy Librarian; **Clarence W. Lewis, Jr.**; and **Cecily Kelly**. Clarence and Creisha are brother and sister, and co-owners of Clarence Lewis & Son Mortuary, established in Conroe, TX in 1973.

And now, the really, really big news...

When we say we're doing big things in Genealogy, we mean it!

We are so happy to announce that we have been awarded a grant of \$542,000 from The Mellon Foundation, supporting the activities of the Memory Lab (Preservation Pad). The Mellon Foundation makes grants “to support communities through the power of the arts and humanities.” For each of the five year grant term, we will expand services; add and update new technology; incorporate designated meeting space for programs and community collaboration; and expand outreach to collect and preserve memories for underserved populations.

“We are immensely thankful to The Mellon Foundation for their generous grant which will significantly enhance our efforts in preserving and digitizing precious memories...ensuring that our community's heritage is remembered for generations to come,“ Library Director Rhea Young said.

We can't fit all our ideas and plans in this newsletter, so come visit and we'll be happy to tell you more!

~ Laura

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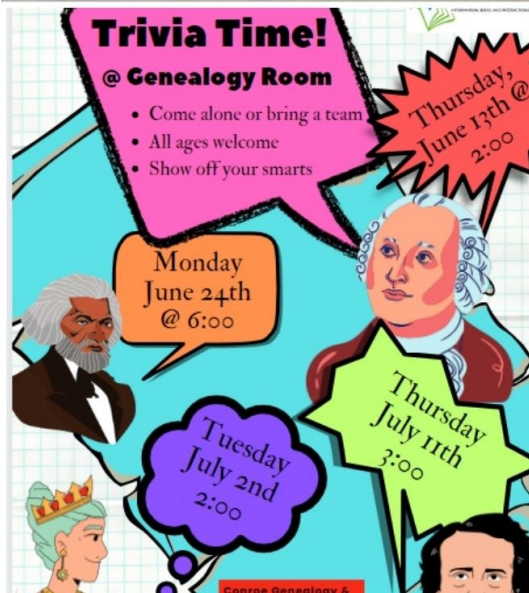
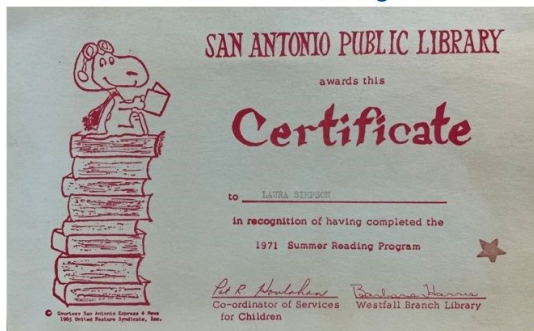
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Upcoming April Events

- **Book Group:** The Lost Quilter 2nd, 10-11:30
- "Cycle of Memory" movie screening (see story here) →
- **Webinar Marathon** by Legacy Family Tree Webinars: **11th: 4p-7p, 12th: 9a-4p**
- **Newspapers in Genealogy Research:** @ South Branch Library 23rd, 2p-4p
- **Midwest Archives: worthy of more than a flyover** Live Webinar with Amber Oldenburg- 24th, 10:30-12:30

Remember Summer Reading as a kid?



April 8th @ 2:00pm

Movie Screening of "Cycle of Memory"

Cycle of Memory follows filmmaker Alex Leff and his younger sibling Koby as they try to uncover the past and capture the present, in order to be remembered in the future.

Guided by old photographs of the 1945 trip, they search for places aged by time. But while searching for Grandpa Mel's past, the two are confronted with their own fraught history. If they're going to complete the turbulent journey, they'll have to face their own emotional potholes and tumultuous relationship.

With the help of a grandmother learning to live alone for the first time, Mel's lifelong friend and co-adventurer on the bike trip, and a family collection spanning 1950s film reels to 1990s video tapes, Cycle of Memory explores the importance of intergenerational connection, healing painful pasts, and leaving a meaningful time capsule for the future.



So many programs to come!
call for details!
936/522-2138

Attention Smartypants:

You asked for it, you got it! Summer Trivia - daytime hours added. Assemble your team, or come solo.