

Lafayette Genealogical Society

August 17, 2017

Presentation

Kathy Pellerin was the guest speaker for the evening and her talk was on Research Opportunities at the Louisiana State Archives. The archives building is located at 8555 Archives Boulevard in Baton Rouge. It is at the corner of I-12 and Essen Drive. They are open from 8 a.m. to 4: p.m. on weekdays and open from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on the 1st Saturday of each month. Their web address is sos.la.gov.

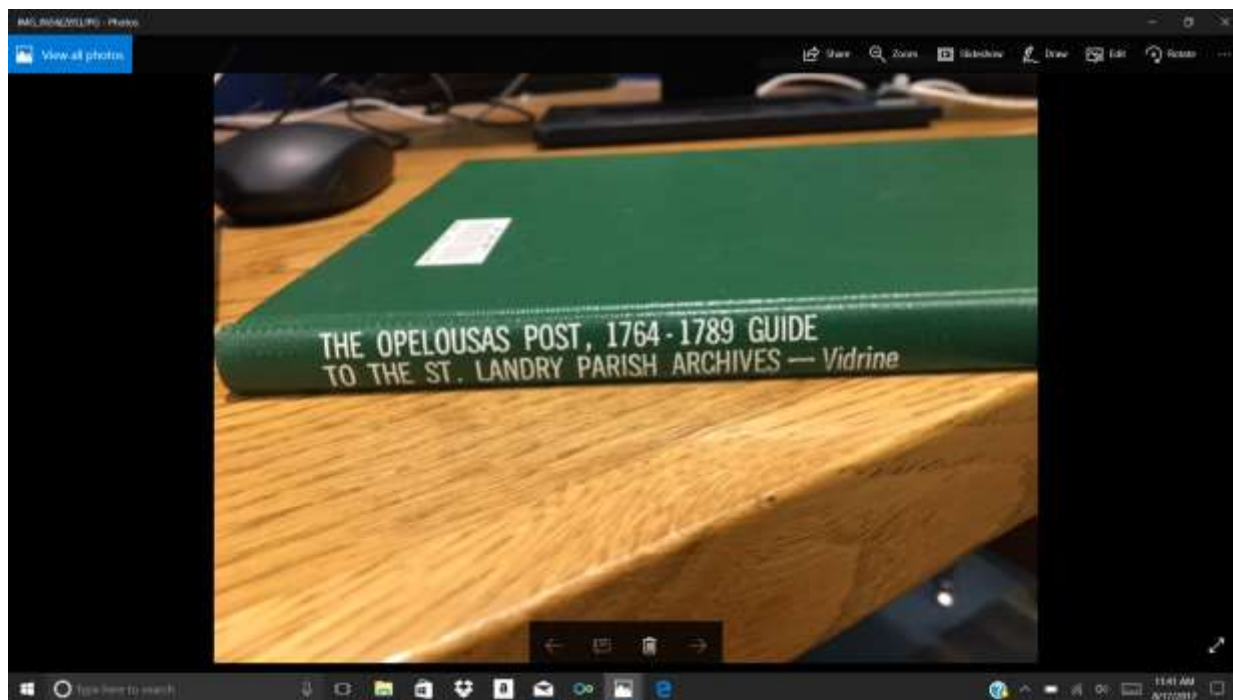
When you open the website, the front page contains information on historical resources. Go to that tab and click on it. Several topics come up but choose “Research Historical Records.” When this page opens up, click on “Locate Historical Records.” This brings you to a page when you can get information on where to find what you are looking for. There are handouts that explain what information is available and where to find it. There are also 3 searchable data bases to choose from.



These data bases include Public Vital Records, Passenger Manifests and Confederate Pensions. To search these data bases, start with a basic search and type in the last name. If you find the person you are looking for, write down the location it can be found in. If it is a confederate pension you are looking for, you will be directed by staff to the filing cabinet containing the CP (confederate pension) reels. You can contact the Archives and for a fee, the Archives staff can print out and mail you the records you are looking for. If you plan to go to the archives in person, bring this information with you. This will save you time and you can print out what you are looking for at 50 cents per page. If the Archives are very busy, you will be limited to 30 minutes on a microfilm reader.

In addition, you can find other records at the Archives. There are books published by Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiane that will show you which microfilm reel the records you are looking for is located. One example is [The Opelousas Post, 1764 – 1789 Guide to the St. Landry Parish Archives](#). This book was compiled by Jacqueline Vidrine and contains information found in the St. Landry Parish Courthouse and sent to the Archives for preservation. It contains land transactions, slave sales, property disputes among others. The guide tells you where in the Archives the reel you want to look at can be found. You can search in the index for the names of people you are researching to see if there is any information you would like to read. Remember, much of this information is written in French or Spanish. These guides usually give you a translation of the content. A second book I found in the Lafayette Library is [Abstracts of St. John the Baptist Parish Civil Records 1757 to 1798](#). These records are also on microfilm at the Archives. These were the only indexes that I could readily find in the library, but there may be others.

I then went on to explain that Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiane strives to make information available information to its members through the published books and its website. There website is similar to ours as it has a member only page. On this page, you can find what information is available on a parish to parish basis. The cost for membership is \$20.00 a year. I personally am a member and have found this website most helpful





Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Pellerin, Secretary