

Lafayette Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, February 15, 2018 in the meeting room of the South Regional Library, 1601 Johnston Street at 6:15 P.M. The meeting was called to order by President Brenda Thibodeaux. The first meeting of 2018 began with a few words of welcome to our members thanking them for attending and she commented on the freeze in January which caused the cancellation of that meeting. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. We then had a moment of silence to honor our ancestors and to remember the victims of the high school shooting in Florida. Guests were then asked to introduce themselves. They Included: Glenda Vincent who is researching many families including her mother's Broussard relatives and Shirley Broussard who volunteers in the genealogy room at New Iberia's public library. She is researching ancestors from Alabama, Georgia and Arkansas.

At this time President Thibodeaux stated that the November minutes were posted to our website and asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Pete Lavergne made the motion and it was seconded by Brenda Fuselier. A vote was taken, the motion passed and everyone is encouraged to read the minutes on-line.

Warren LeBlanc was called upon to give the Treasurer's Report. It is as follows:

Beginning Balance	\$5,481.45
Dues	140.00
Books Sold/Donations	
Supplements Sold	
Acadian Project	
Banquet	
Publication Expense	
Speaker Meals	
Banquet Expenses	

Office Expenses	
Other Expenses/Rent	
Library Book Project	
Ending Balance	\$5,021.45

New Members for 2018	04
TOTAL MEMBERS	56
Members with Dues Unpaid	96

New members for this month are:

Sidney and Freddie Bellard
Irene King
Myra Varrelman
Robert and Linda Veltinger
Jeanette and Verley LeBlanc
Jack Godfrey
Ricky Judice

Members with January anniversary of club membership are:

Pete Lavergne	11 years
Barbara Thibodeaux	8 years
Charles Dutel	5 years
Joan and Ronald Boudreaux	3 years

Pete Lavergne motioned that we accept the treasurer's report for January. It was seconded by Brenda Fuselier and a vote was taken. The motion was passed without opposition.

Warren LeBlanc then gave us the 2018 Projected Budget. It is as follows:

Beginning Bank Balance	\$5, 481.44
Projected Revenues	
Estimated Dues	2,400.00
Books (CD) Sold 6 @ \$5.00 ea.	

Cemetery Book/CD Sold 7 @ 2.00 ea.	
Supplements Sold 4 @ \$5.00 ea.	
Total Projected Revenues	\$2,400.00
Projected Expenditures	
Publication	400.00
Speaker Meals Expense	100.00
Storage Rent	600.00
Banquet Expense	100.00
Office Expenses (Copies, Postage)	300.00
Other Expenses (Web Page Update)	350.00
Total Projected Expenditures	\$1. 850.00
Ending Bank Balance	\$6,031.44

Pete Lavergne motioned that we accept the proposed budget for 2018. It was seconded by Kathy Higginbotham. The motion carried.

President Thibodeaux then informed the society that the Executive Committee approved an expenditure by Everett Thompson to update our website to make it more user friendly. She also requested that the society approve a lifetime membership for Everett in appreciation for time and service which he has rendered to the society. Pete Lavergne motioned that we approve this request and it was seconded by Dana Guidry. The motioned passed without opposition.

President Thibodeaux also mentioned that Shirley Thibodeaux's husband, John Allen, is now on hospice care and to please remember him in your thoughts and prayers.

She also mentioned that volunteers are always welcome on Tuesday mornings at the library to help beginning genealogists. There will be a reunion of the Breaux, Guidry and Hebert families in Thibodeaux on March 10. That is the same day as the program being presented at the Lafayette Southside Library by Deidra Doucet Bourque and Marie Renquist on their DNA project. We do not have a great deal of information on the presentation but it a project that includes Acadians and Native American

populations. Pre-registration is not required. It will be held in the auditorium. Please see our Facebook page for more information.

This ended the business part of the meeting.

President Thibodeaux then introduced our speaker for the evening, Henry Peterson. Henry is a member of our society and helps members with their trees. His topic for tonight is *Things You Can Find on the Internet*.

Henry began his presentation by stating that more and more people are using computers to do genealogy research and there are many opportunities there. He began with using an obituary found in newspapers. He pointed out the wealth of family history in each one.

Mr. Peterson then showed a video he had prepared discussing this topic and several others. He told everyone to be meticulous with the information found. He used the obituary of Carroll Babineaux as example. Mr. Babineaux was someone Henry had in his database. He added a date of death and the source for referenced location of death, where Mr. Babineaux was buried. The obituary also gave survivors which include a spouse and children. An obituary can also give the name of those who predeceased Mr. Babineaux and is a good way to supply deceased parents or previous spouses. Obituaries also give the name of the funeral home used. He went to their website and found the original obituary. He then copied the address of the funeral home notice and pasted it into his information. This information enables others using Henry's database to go to the source if they want to view or see the original information. Henry was able to update information on the children and make sure they were all in his database.

Still using Mr. Babineaux as an example, he then went to Find-A-Grave to find out if Mr. Babineaux's information had been placed there. It was there and had been updated with his date of death. Sometimes this site will also lead to the names of deceased parents and siblings. If you follow through with information found here, it will make your own research more complete.

Henry also went to the National Archives website where you can search databases for census records, military records, immigration and naturalization records and land records. Some veterans service records are there as well.

The Church of Later Day Saints is also wonderful reference site that allows you to search free of charge. You can start a tree there. The website is familyserach.org. As a person is entered into their database they are given an ID # and become a part of one world family tree.

All of the above websites are free of charge. Henry then mentioned that if you are researching on Find-A-Grave sometimes use only the last name to search with a parish name and that will bring up all people sharing the same surname and it may help you pinpoint the correct person you are researching.



Henry Peterson discusses his information with Pete Lavergne and Irene King

Henry also mentioned Cyndie's List. This site is a compilation of various website solely related to genealogy. He gave a short presentation on how to use the site and said everyone should explore the site on their own.

Henry also showed us a group of maps showing the Louisiana parish boundaries starting in 1805. There are 41 pages of maps which show how each parish developed. This will be put on our website under the Members Only to be used for reference.

He then answered some of the members questions on how to source and use the URL address. It was brought up that Genealogy Bank was a good place to find obituaries of people who died before the

funeral homes started putting them online. However, this is a paid website. Pete Lavergne suggested that we should write our own obituary and keep it so that our relatives would have it for accuracy.

There being no more business the meeting was ended.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pellerin
Secretary