

Lafayette Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Main Library, Congress Street. The meeting was called to order by President Brenda Fuselier. After a few words of welcome, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence to honor our ancestors and our armed forces. A special request for prayers for member, Merline Mire who had to be hospitalized this week. Guests were asked to introduce themselves. They included: Kathy Miller visiting from New Orleans and Flossie Guilbeau who is research the Broussard and Guidry families among others.

The library has placed several books on the shelves against the wall. They are mostly photocopies of books they already have and everyone is invited to take any book or books they would like.

The July minutes are on our website. Henry Peterson motioned that we dispense with the reading of the minutes. Nathan Guillory, a former member who has just re-joined, seconded the motion. There was no objection. Members who cannot attend the meetings can keep up with society activity by reading the minutes on-line.

Warren LeBlanc was called upon to give the Treasurer's Report. The July report is listed below:

Beginning Balance	\$5,267.46
Dues Collected	
Books Sold/Donations	
Supplements Sold	
Acadiana Project	
Banquet	
Publication Expense	
Speaker Meals	
Banquet Expense	
Office Expense	
Other Expense/Rental	
Library Book Project	
Ending Balance	\$5,267.46

New Members for 2017:	52
TOTAL MEMBERS	124

New members for this month include: Janice and Robert Gerace and Nathan Guillory. There was no discussion on the treasurer's report and Henry Peterson motioned that we accept the report. It was seconded by Ben Freeman. A vote was taken and the treasurer's report was accepted.

Henry Peterson gave a short presentation on the status of the Legacy support group that will meet on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. in Room 2C of the Downtown Library. He will be discussing shortcuts in the Legacy program. Please bring your laptop if possible. He stated that My Heritage purchased Legacy and is having a ½ price sale. This is similar to the way Family Tree co-mingles information with Ancestry.com.

Henry also talked about his visit to the Terrebonne Genealogy Society. He talked about the support that the library gives to the society. It is a very active group and he was given a lot of help with research he is doing for a young woman looking for her LeBlanc family. Henry was very impressed with the cooperation within this society.

Les Memories contributions are being accepted now until mid-September for publication in the 2017 Les Memories. Everyone is asked to contribute their family trees or any other bits of family memorabilia.

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed for the Tuesday morning session at the downtown library. Members are there to assist newcomers to genealogy. There are 4 computers dedicated to genealogy and one dedicated to Fr. Hebert's CD. Please join us anytime from 8:30 until noon. A question was asked of Sam Lollar of the library staff regarding what information was in storage. He stated that only magazines and quarterlies are in storage. He can get them upon request.

Brenda Thibodeaux and Warren LeBlanc have started putting our cemetery information on Find-A-Grave. The small cemeteries are done but help is needed with Carencro, St. Basil and St. Ann in Youngsville. Volunteers are needed to check and see if people on our list are on the website. Please see Warren LeBlanc if you can help. He will give you all the information you need.

This concluded the business part of the meeting.

I was the guest speaker for the evening and my 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.

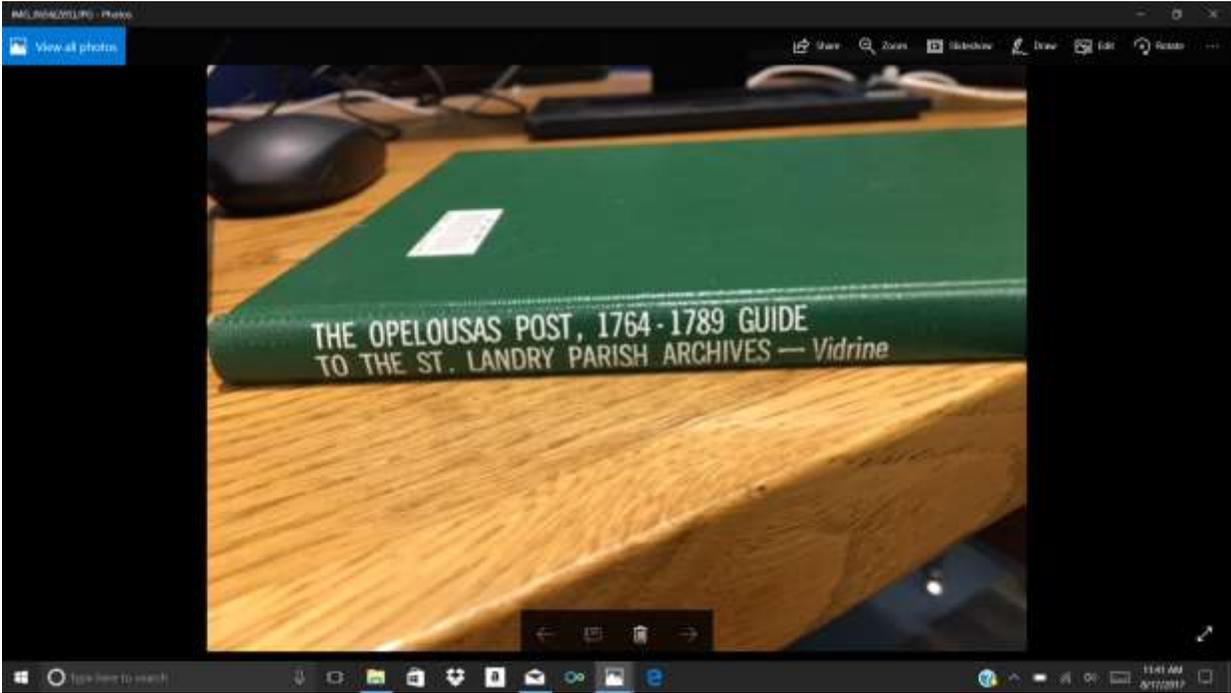


These data bases include Public Vital Records, Passenger Manifests and Confederate Pensions. To search these data bases, start with a basic search and type in the last name. If you find the person you are looking for, write down the location it can be found in. If it is a confederate pension you are 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



This concluded my presentation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Pellerin, Secretary