

Lafayette Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, November 18, 2016 in the meeting room of the South Regional Library, 1601 Johnston Street at 6:30 P.M. The meeting was called to order by President Calice Breaux. The meeting began with recognition of guests and new members. They included Lori Wilkerson, a new member who is researching the Clouatre family. Rusty and Anita Pettijean, current members, were recognized as well as, Patrick Doguet, a cousin of current member Frances Doga. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence honoring our deceased ancestors and members of our armed forces.

Treasurer, Warren LeBlanc, gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance for October was \$4,642.35. There was no activity on the treasury and the ending balance was \$4,642.35 with a total of 47 new members for 2016. President Breaux then stated that since the October minutes are on our website, he would dispense with the reading of the minutes. He then called for a motion to accept the treasurer's report and the online minutes. Henry Peterson moved that we accept the treasurer's report and minutes. It was seconded by Brenda Fuselier. The motion was passed.

At this time President Breaux announced that we would vote for new officers for next year. The slate of officers offered for 2017 are as follows: Brenda Fuselier, President, Henry Peterson, Vice President, Brenda Thibodeaux, President-Elect, Kathy Pellerin, Secretary and Warren LeBlanc, Treasurer. The slate of officers was announced at the October meeting. He called for nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations and he called for a vote. There were no objections and the officers were elected.

At this time, President Breaux introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Steven Cormier. Mr. Cormier, a Jennings native, is a retired social studies teacher who has lived in Virginia for the past 30 years. He and his wife, Sandy, are here visiting his mother and other relatives. He is an Army veteran and received his Master's Degree at Old Dominion in Virginia. Steven has used his love of history as a catalyst to begin work on his website "Acadians in Gray". His study of the Civil War led him to explore just which "Cajuns" fought.

Steven Cormier is a descendent of Joachim Cormier of Carencro, who along with his brothers Clemile and Lasty, fought on the side of the Confederacy. This led to a curiosity of just what was a Cajun. He found 157 Acadian surnames. He also explained what "Cultural Cajuns" and "Creoles" are and the differences between them to us. His website is a combination of history and genealogy.

Steven then showed us how to use his website to find out information on our own families. He has separated his information into eleven books or chapters so far. He begins with an intense background study on the Acadian refugees and how they got to Louisiana. He ends with the “begets”, who is descended from whom and a marriage page. He encouraged everyone to contact him with questions and information.



Steven Cormier discussed how to navigate his website with society members at meeting on November 18.

He also made a few remarks about the Germans and other non-Cajun families in Louisiana. He then answered questions from society members and spent a lot of time explaining his findings. Everyone was grateful for the time and thoroughness with which their questions were answered.

Before the meeting ended, James Bourque said that we did not officially vote on officers, we just approved the nominations. He then motioned that we accept the nominations and officially elect the slate of officers. The motion was seconded by Henry Peterson and the vote was held. The slate of officers was approved and will be inducted at the December 2nd banquet at the Petroleum Club. Members are asked to pay Warren LeBlanc. The cost is \$20.00 per person. With this done, the meeting was adjourned.



Steven Cormier discussed information with society member after the Nov. 18 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pellerin
Secretary