

# Lafayette Genealogical Society

## Meeting Minutes

### September 18, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, September 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 a moment of silence honoring our ancestors who have gone before us and our armed forces. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited. We had no guests but several members who had not attended in several months. Brenda Fuselier motioned that we dispense with the reading of the minutes. It was seconded by Herb Scheuermann. There was no objection and the motion passed. President Breaux encouraged everyone to read the minutes on the website.

Treasurer, Warren LeBlanc, gave the financial report. The beginning bank balance was \$4,712.35. There was no activity on the account and the ending bank balance for the month was \$4,712.35.

President Breaux then called upon Herb Scheuermann, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, to give a report. Herb reported that we are looking for two people to fill vacancies in next year's roster. The vacancies include the offices of President and President-Elect. If anyone is interested in filling these vacancies, please contact Herb or Calice. We present the nominations at the October meeting and vote at the November meeting. Officers are sworn in at the December banquet. Herb also stated that at the committee meeting held before the meeting, there was a discussion about updating the Constitution as it is no longer in compliance with today's format. We no longer publish a monthly newsletter and information is now distributed to members through our website and Facebook page.

Family information is needed for our yearly publication. This year Kathy Pellerin will be putting the information together. You can contribute family trees, pictures or stories about your family or your research. Information is due by October 1. The publication will be posted to our website in the Members Only section.

President Breaux then proceeded to introduce the film he was showing titled "Little Houses". This is a documentary about the Istre Cemetery at Mermentau Cove, La. The film began in French and then switched to English and tells the story of a unique burial practice found at this cemetery of building little houses over the tombs. What makes this practice unique is that fact that they are actual houses as opposed to just shelter structures in that they have roofs, walls, doors and windows. Most shelter structures just have four posts and a roof with an occasional half wall and a gate.

Dr. Greg Jean, an anthropologist, was interviewed and stated that he had never seen this practice before. This cemetery has now been placed on the National Historic Register. It is believed that this cemetery pre-dates the American Civil War and this practice continued until World War II. Many of the original structures have disappeared due to neglect caused by families dying out or losing interest. Only three remain. "Tee-Rouge" Broussard, a local folklorist, gave information about the custom.

The cemetery is currently maintained by the Istre Cemetery Association. The President of the Association, Leon Smith was interviewed. He said that the cemetery association maintains the grounds but individuals maintain the tombs. The houses were made of wood and are subjected to the weather and need constant maintenance. President Breaux passed around pictures he took of the remaining houses on a recent visit to the cemetery.

After the film, a short discussion of the documentary was held with most people attending having never heard of this.

Sam Lollar of the library staff stated that the October 101 will be held in the small conference room next door to the room regularly used. Voter registration will be going on in the next room. Several member asked question of Sam regarding the smallness of the genealogy room at the main library and recommended that certain things be done to make the room more user friendly. Sam listened to the suggestions and said he would do his best.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pellerin  
Secretary