

# Lafayette Genealogical Society

## Meeting Minutes

### January 19, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, January 19, 2017 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 Brenda Fuselier. The first meeting of 2017 began with a few words of welcome to our members thanking them for attending followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. We then had a moment of silence to honor our ancestors who have gone before us and our armed forces. Guests were then asked to introduce themselves. They Included: Jan Love who attended with her husband, John Love, who is a member and Mary Rizzo who also attended with her husband Jasper who also a member. Another guest was Robert, who has met members of our group on Tuesday morning at the library. He is getting serious about his research. Several members said that they had not been attending the meeting regularly but plan to start attending again. Everyone was welcomed.

President Fuselier then mentioned that dues are now due for the coming year. They are \$20.00 per year and paid dues entitle members to use the "members only" page of our website. This page contains all of the society's published books, i.e. cemetery books, yearbooks etc. It is a very informative and useful website and each year a new password is issued to paid members, usually in March.

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

Warren LeBlanc was absent and no Treasurer's Report was available. Dues were paid to Kathy Pellerin, Secretary.

At this time Brenda Comeaux Trahan was called upon to talk about an upcoming trip to France that was available. It is a pilgrimage to some of the places that the early Acadian families spent their years of exile in France, as well as places where some of the founding families of Acadie lived before they came to the new world. She gave a short talk about how the trip came about and Claude Boudreaux, the Canadian who is organizing the Acadian wing of the trip. The trip will be from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>. She has 6 people committed to going with another 28 people contemplating the trip. She will close the registration at 15. She left brochures for anyone interested. It was mentioned that James and Lona Bourque went on one of the early trips and visited the church where some of their ancestors were married.

After Ms. Trahan's talk, President Fuselier continued the meeting. She called upon Everett Thompson to give us an update on the DNA groups. He stated that this coming Saturday, January 21, would be the last beginner DNA group. It will be held at the downtown library at 9:30 am. He then stated that he has created a video which will be available on the Lafayette Genealogical Society's website. In this video he will give an overview on what one can expect from a DNA test, what kinds of tests are available and which one you should take to begin with. He will also talk about what to do with the results. This information is what is generally discussed at the beginning group sessions. He is also creating more advanced videos that will give more detailed information about DNA. These additional videos will be on the "members only" page of the website. The beginner DNA group is being disbanded since it can be condensed into the video and people can watch at their own pace. The Advanced DNA group will still meet each month.

President Fuselier then mentioned a Genealogy Workshop in Salt Lake City, Utah from February 8-11. Please see her for details.

This ended the business part of the meeting.

Our guest speaker for the evening was our president, Brenda Fuselier. Her presentation was on using Fr. Hebert's books and CD for genealogical research. She stated that newcomers depend on Fr. Hebert's books. The downtown library has a good selection of 47 books authored by Fr. Hebert and some of the books are available for check out. There is also a set of books in the reading room next door to the genealogy room which is quiet and has more space than the genealogy room. These books are important because they have all of the church records as well as some civil records.

She, however, finds the books time consuming since you have to start with one book, copy down your information and then move on to the next one. She would like for people to use the cd since there is one computer in the genealogy section that is dedicated to the cd only. She also stated that the cd is available at most libraries in the area. For information from 1900 and beyond, you must use the books.

Publishing these books was Father Hebert's life work. He used French and Acadian women to help transcribe the original documents since they were most familiar with the names. High school students also helped. The information was put on 3 x 5 cards until ready to be incorporated into the books. Someone said that there were over 200 spellings just for the name Boudreaux. The original documents are sometimes hard to read and understand since the nationality of the writer was often different from the Acadians and other people living in the area. The priest or clerk wrote down what they heard and it often causes confusion. There are many transcription errors.

There are also books on other areas of the state. Fr. Hebert published South Louisiana volumes which consist of the Lafourche and Terrebonne area. Fr. Hebert published the records of the Louisiana Families in South east Texas from 1840 to 1940 and the story of Fr. Parisot. You can also find records on New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee, as well as early Acadian records from books brought

with some of the early settlers. Fr. Hebert's books can be purchased from Claitor's Publishing Company in Baton Rouge at a cost of \$70.00 per volume. The CD will run about \$470.00. Brenda then proceeded to show slides on each volume of Fr. Hebert's Southwest Louisiana books. She outlined what was contained in each volume. This slide presentation will be put on the website.

This concluded her presentation. Henry Peterson motioned that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Carolyn Peron. Everyone was in agreement and the meeting adjourned.



President Fuselier gives presentation at January meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pellerin  
Secretary