

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, May 19, 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. After a few opening remarks by our President, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. This was followed by a moment of silence observed in honor of our ancestors and also of those serving in the military, past and present. Our guests were recognized. They included Sudie Landry, who is researching her family in France, and Rusty and Anita Petijean who are researching the Wilkinson and Sark families. Brenda Fuselier motioned that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes posted on our website. It was seconded by Judy Trahan. There was no objection and the motion passed. Everyone is encouraged to read the minutes on the website.

Warren LeBlanc was called upon to give the Treasurer's Report for April, 2016.

<i>Beginning Balance</i>	\$4,178.30
Dues	160.00
Books Sold/Donations	10.00
Supplements Sold	
Acadian Project	
Banquet	
Publication Expense	
Speaker Meals	
Banquet Expense	
Office Expense	
Other Expense/Rent	
Library Book	
Project	
<i>Ending Balance</i>	\$4,348.30

New Members for 2016	31
Members with dues unpaid	39

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Everett Thompson was called upon to give an update on the DNA group. He announced that he will be conducting a get started with ancestry.com beginner class on Saturday, June 11 from 1 until 3:30 pm at the Downtown Library. The class will be open to the general public and be limited to 10 people. Volunteers are needed to assist class members. The beginner DNA class will be at the Johnston Street Library on Saturday, May 21. It is open to members who are in need of advice as to where to test and what to do with the results.

President Breaux announced that we are in need of a President-Elect to replace Shirley Thibodeaux who had to resign. He said the most difficult part of the President's job is finding speakers. He suggested that the President and President-Elect appoint a committee to help get speakers and plan the programs for the upcoming months. No one volunteered for this position and he will continue to recruit a President-Elect.

This ended the business portion of the meeting.

President Breaux then introduced our speaker of the evening, Becca Begnaud. Becca is from Scott, Louisiana and is what is known in Cajun Culture as a *traiteur* or a healer. Before she began her talk, she spoke about her recent visit to the Lite Center and her vision of how this technology could be used in her work. She then passed out an information sheet on what a *traiteur* does and how one acquires his or her gift of healing. Her first encounter with this type of healing happened when she was a young child and had a heat stroke. Instead of berating her for being out in the sun too long, her mother immediately called Becca's grandfather who came over and treated her. After this prayerful treatment, she soon began to feel much better and life went on as usual. In 1989 Becca was found to have cancer and after surgery she was visited by Sister Hilda who encouraged Becca to explore her gift.

As an anthropology student, Becca became more familiar with healing and studied 5 people who were *traiteurs*. She received her gift from Eva Blanchard who shared her prayer and passed it on to Becca. Becca later found out that Ms. Blanchard's pronunciation of some of the words were wrong but that did not deter her. The art of healing is a process and does not always follow the rules. She explained that healing and curing are two different things. One could be healed but that does not stop you from dying and one does not have to believe for it to work but you do have to participate. The healing and prayers will work with animals also.

She then shared a thesis written in the 1930's by Charles Joseph Bienvenue from St. Martinville while he was a student at LSU. It was a study of the French Negro dialect in St. Martinville. The thesis contained a list of medicinal plants and herbs used by the *traiteurs* as well as prayers and recipes. She shared this with her professor, Ray Brassieur, who looked at this list and helped her identify the plants. Becca also spoke on how the early Acadians had to learn the plants from the Native Americans since so many of them were different from those they had in Canada. She also stated that while no money is exchanged, there may be gifts given such as food and maybe favors are done. She ended by saying that *traiteurs* are used to heal the brokenness in life and she sang a beautiful song that she had written for her mother.

There being no further business, Brenda Fuselier motioned that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Judy Trahan and there was no objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pellerin
Secretary