

Lafayette Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Johnston Street Library. 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. Prayers and remembrances were also asked for former LGS president Pat Snyder, Carr Lane Wilkerson (Marella's husband), member Donald Wynn Kelly and Julia Breaux's brother Frank Falcon, Jr. who all recently died. President Fuselier recognized Irene and Sam from the downtown library staff who were in attendance.

Brenda Fuselier stated that our minutes are on our website. Henry Peterson motioned that we dispense with the reading of the minutes. It was seconded by Paul Manual. The motion passed without objection. President Fuselier stated that the minutes contain information about our speaker's topics. If you miss a meeting, you can keep informed by reading the minutes on-line.

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

Beginning Balance	\$5,327.46
Dues Collected	60.00
Books Sold/Donations	
Supplements Sold	
Acadiana Project	
Banquet	
Publication Expense	
Speaker Meals	
Banquet Expense	
Office Expense	
Other Expense/Rental	
Library Book Project	
Ending Balance	\$5,387.46

New member(s) for this month include: Father Jason Vidrine There was no discussion on the treasurer's report and it was accepted.

Henry Peterson will conduct the Legacy meeting on the 3rd Saturday of October at 1:00 p.m. at the downtown library on the 2nd floor. It generally lasts 2 hours and he has handouts and videos. He will answer questions and discuss resources regarding the Legacy software package. It is the program that he uses. Everyone is invited to attend.

The December meeting will be our annual luncheon. It will be held on Friday, December 1 at 11:30 a.m. It will be held at the Petroleum Club. The cost will be \$20 or \$22 and there will be a speaker.

A slate of officers was presented for 2018. It is as follows:

Henry Peterson, President
Brenda Thibodeaux, President Elect
Open – Vice President
Kathy Pellerin, Secretary
Warren LeBlanc, Treasurer

The Vice President's spot is open and Brenda Fuselier asked for nominations from the floor. There were none and she volunteered to serve in this office. A vote was taken and the officers were elected for 2018.

A reminder that the Opelousas Cemetery Tours will continue the weekend of October 21 and 22.

Annual publications submissions are due now. Please give any information to Kathy Pellerin or Warren LeBlanc.

This concluded the business section of our meeting and President Fuselier introduced our speaker for the evening, Michelle LeBlanc. She is the granddaughter of Dudley LeBlanc and is here tonight to speak on his books, *The Acadian Miracle* and *The True Story of the Acadians*. Before she began her presentation, Shirley and John Allen LeBlanc presented her with a handmade replica of her grandfather's boyhood home that John Allen constructed. She was pleased with the gift, especially after learning that it took 300 hours to build.



Presentation of replica of Dudley J. LeBlanc's boyhood home

Michelle LeBlanc began her talk by giving us a history of her family and of the books. When she first heard the stories of the Acadians, she thought they were fairy tales. She soon found out that the stories were true and began to pay more attention. She went on to college and law school but retained her interest in the Acadian history and her grandfather's part in telling their story. She was bequeathed the library by her grandmother. She has edited and updated his book *The True Story of the Acadians* and has reissued the book on its 90th anniversary.

Her grandfather spent many years researching his LeBlanc family and eventually wrote the story. He went even farther by bringing groups of Acadian girls on pilgrimages to Grand Pré with stops at the White House in Washington D.C. He made Acadian history come alive for people in southwest Louisiana. He made them aware of their history. She did make a statement that she did not find these books in the genealogy department of the Lafayette Library.



Michelle LeBlanc speaks on Acadian history

She then began to tell the story of the Acadians and give us their history. They were fishermen, dike builders, farmers and Catholic. The refusal to give up their religion and become British was the cause of many of their trials. Dudley LeBlanc found sealed records which tell the true story of the deportation of the Acadians from Nova Scotia. She read an excerpt from the book explaining character of the people. She also read an article written by Benjamin Franklin in the Pennsylvania Gazette published on 4 Sept. 1755 where he spoke of the "Neutral French" and the "great and noble scheme". It was truly stealing fertile land from the French speaking people of Nova Scotia. She went on to state that from her grandfather's research she found out how the deportation took place and how the people were herded like cattle onto ships not designed for humans but rather for actual livestock. Much of what we know today came from her grandfather. He wanted Acadians to not forget their history and know how they got here to Louisiana. She told us about the strong desire to re-unite with family and friends scattered all over the world and how Louisiana became a re-uniting place. The books were available for purchase after the meeting.

After the presentation, Sam Lollar of the library staff, stated that he will get the books for the library.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Pellerin
Secretary