

Lafayette Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, October 20, 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. Guests were then asked to introduce themselves. They Included: Richard Doty who is researching his Canadian roots in search of biological relatives and Gail Dack who is researching the English ancestry of the Dack family. Other guests included Phoebe Hayes, Vic Fontenot, Don Arceneaux, Tracy Frederick and Jasper Rizzo. President Breaux then mentioned that these guests are welcome at our Tuesday morning sessions at the main library where we have members present to assist in research. Volunteers from our society are always needed for these mornings.

At this time Herb Scheuermann was called upon to give the nominating committee report. Due to the fact that Shirley Thibodeaux had to resign as President-Elect, we were in need of someone to take her place. Brenda Fuselier has agreed to take over this position for Shirley. 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. There were no nominations from the floor. The election of officers for the 2017 term will be held at the November meeting.

President Breaux called upon Herb Scheuermann to introduce our guest speaker for the evening, Dr. Gerald Keller. Dr. Keller is an educator, having been a classroom teacher and a member of the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board. He was also the superintendent of schools for that parish. He has also done a considerable amount of research on the history and settlement of that area, being fondly known as the "Parish Historian".

He began by giving a short history of the settlement of Louisiana with John Law bringing a group of people from the Alsace Lorraine area of France/Germany. Most of them settled along the Mississippi River in the area known as Hahnville today. Further Germans arrived later on and their settlements became known as Louisiana's German Coast. Even later the Acadian refugees arrived and settled the Attakapas and Opelousas area along with the Mississippi River area of today's St. James Parish. He also spoke of the Europeans coming to Louisiana because of religious persecution, choosing immigration over imprisonment, religious conversion or execution. In 1769 the colony of Louisiana was taken over by Spain and there was an influx of Canary Islanders. There were many languages being spoken in Louisiana with the predominant language being French.

Eventually, the nationalities began to intermarry and the surnames gradually began to become French. For example a Mayer became a Mayeaux or a Troxler became a Trosclair. He presented a chart that showed a list of these names mostly taken for Deiler’s 1909 book on this topic. For a little lagniappe or “something extra”, he gave us a short presentation of the definitions of Creole in Louisiana. It was a very informative presentation and Dr. Keller graciously answered questions from those present.



Dr. Gerald Keller

Brenda Fuselier reminded everyone of the annual banquet that will be held on December 2 at noon at the Petroleum Club. The cost will be \$20.00. Please pay Warren LeBlanc in advance.

Shirley LeBlanc shared that she and her husband would be at Whitney Plantation on Saturday for a presentation at 2 p.m. of his replica of Antioch Church to the plantation for display. Whitney Plantation is in Wallace, La. and is dedicated to the presentation of the history of enslaved people in America.

President Breaux apologized that he had forgotten to have Warren LeBlanc give the financial report for September and asked him to do so at this time:

Beginning Balance	\$4,613.30
Dues	160.00
Books Sold/Donations	20.00
Supplements Sold	
Acadian Project	
BANQUET	
Publication Expense	
Speaker Meals	
Banquet Expense	
Office Expense	-20.95
Other Expense/Rent	-130.00
Library Book	
Project	
Ending Balance	\$4,642.35

It was motioned by Judy Trahan that we accept the financial report and seconded by Shirley LeBlanc. The motion passed. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pellerin
Secretary