

Lafayette Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, September 20, 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. Guests were asked to introduce themselves. They included: Victoria Johnson, Kristen and Rachel Vallot who are researching the Vallot, Patin, Zinder and O'Keefe families; Lillian Trahan researching her Landry and Levi Broussard families; Andrea and Danny Buller who received information on the Buller's from Brenda Fuselier and are also researching the Caillier and Frederick families; Theresa Abel a DAR member interested in her Huval family who attended tonight's meeting to hear our guest speaker; and, Sam Fontenot who has Kaskaskia family connections and read about our meeting in the *Times*. New member forms are available for anyone interested in joining our organization. Please see Brenda or Warren if you would like one.

Tours of the St. Landry Cemetery will begin on October 14 and continue on the 15th, 21st and 22nd. The cost is \$10.00 per person. This is a fund raiser for cemetery preservation.

There will be a genealogy teleconference on September 23rd beginning at 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be 4 speakers during the day. This teleconference is being produced by a group in Texas and you need to register on-line. Please see Brenda for more information.

Volunteers for our Find-A-Grave project are still needed. Please see Warren for more information.

Our Facebook page is still going strong and more people are posting.

Henry Peterson will speak on how to upload and edit pictures at his next Legacy group meeting. Please contact him for more information and registration.

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 Alan Matte. The motion passed and everyone is encouraged to catch up with our activities by reading minutes on the website.

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

Beginning Balance	\$5,267.46
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	\$5,327.46

New Members for 2017: 54
TOTAL MEMBERS 125

New members for this month include: Lance and Lynda Songy, Robin Carvallo and Linda Mitchell. There was no discussion on the treasurer’s report and Martha Landreneau motioned that we accept the report. It was seconded by Alan Matte. A vote was taken and the treasurer’s report was accepted.

Contributions are being accepted for publication in the 2017 Les Memories. Everyone is asked to contribute their family trees or any other bits of family memorabilia including family stories and pictures. Les Memories will be posted to our website under our Members Only section.

President Fuselier also mentioned that Betty Hollier’s granddaughter had a premature baby and that blood donations are needed. Please donate in Skyler Hollier’s name.

This concluded the business section of our meeting and President Fuselier introduced our speaker for the evening, Father Jason Vidrine. He is serving the Immaculate Heart congregation in Crowley, La. Father Vidrine loves history and historical research on the Vidrine family. He visited the area and is sharing his photos from this trip along with a narrative of the historical significance of the area,

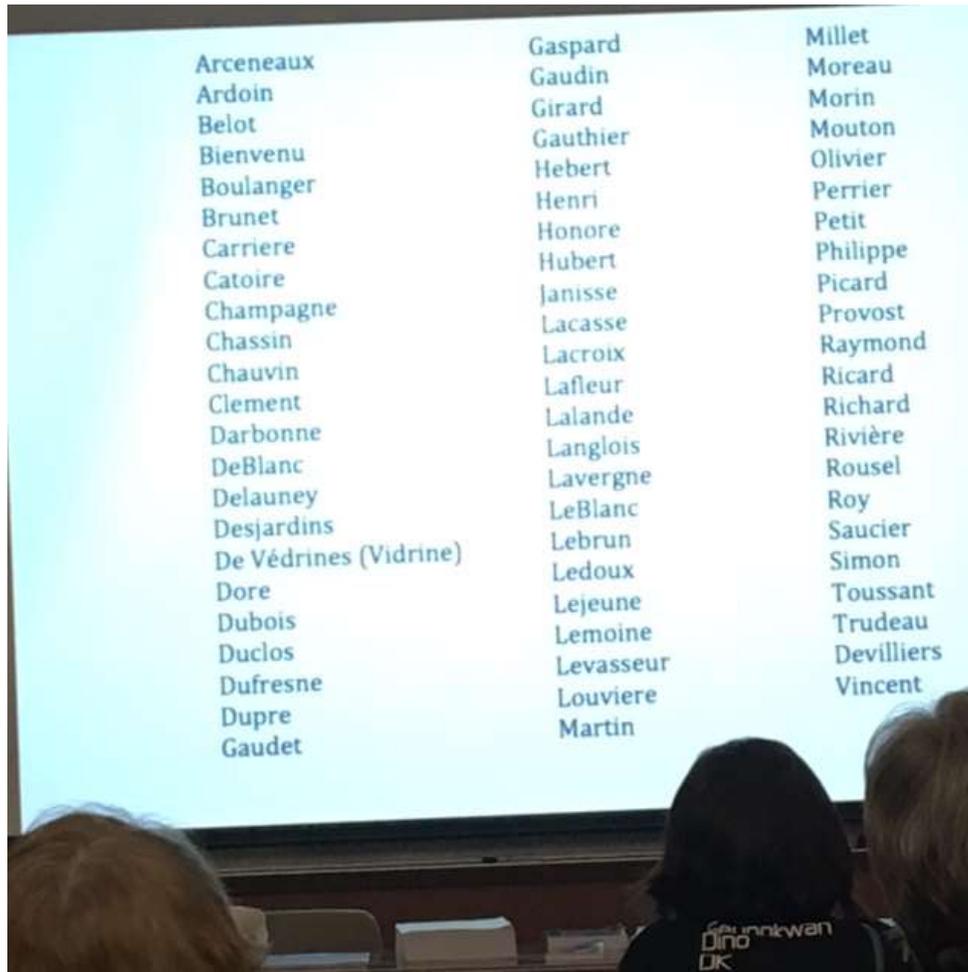


Fr. Jason Vidrine, guest speaker

Father Vidrine's talk this evening concentrated on the settlement patterns of the Illinois territory of the upper Mississippi River Valley. It was settled by French speaking people who came to the area from Canada. Arkansas was the informal border between the Upper and Lower Mississippi Territories. The territory was first explored by Fr. Marquette and Joliette in the mid 1600's. They were joined later by LaSalle in 1682. Iberville, a French Canadian, was sent by the king of France, Louis IV to find the mouth of the Mississippi in 1699 by way of the Gulf of Mexico. This led to the founding of New Orleans in 1718.

The Indian or Native American population consisted of a federation of Kaskia, Peoria, Cohokie and Michigame nations. Their principal village was the meeting place of the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers. A French mission was established here under the control of the Diocese of Quebec. The fort was built of wood and had to be rebuilt several times until a stone fort was built in its place. The remains of the stone fort have led to partial reconstruction of the fort today. In the 1720's and 1730's the inhabitants of the area consisted of French troops and many of them married native women. Trading between the natives and settlers generally was good. Eventually families began to move into the area from Canada, mostly from Quebec and Montreal. There is no history of Acadian settlement in this area, although it has been speculated that the Beausoleil Broussard part intended to go up the river to this area before being moved to SW Louisiana. Other French settlers came from San Domingue and New Orleans. These people came up the Mississippi from New Orleans. Creoles were children born here of French or European parentage. African slavery was introduced here but not in great numbers.

After the stone fort was built in the 1750's, 3,000 to 4,000 French Marines were sent to garrison the fort and a thriving society was built. Several communities sprang up at Kaskaskia, St. Geneva, Old Mines and Fort de Chartres. Fr. Vidrine produced a list of French names found at these locations. Some of them are found here in Louisiana today.



List of Names of Families in Upper Mississippi Valley

After France lost the American French and Indian War, many of the settlers of the upper Mississippi chose to move southward into the lower Mississippi. Father Vidrine then went on to show us pictures of things he found interesting on his recent trip to this area. He spoke on the active trade going on up and down the river and explained the various boats used to transport goods. He also gave us a short talk on what remains of each settlement today.



Sabots, traditional footwear on display at museum

His talk was very well received by everyone there.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Pellerin, Secretary