

**Lafayette Genealogical Society**  
**General Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**April 18, 2019**

**Call to Order**

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held Thursday, April 18, 2019 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 Henry Peterson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

President Peterson announced that the minutes for the March, 2019 meeting were online and available for review on the <http://lafayettegenealogicalsociety.org> website. A motion was made, seconded and voted on affirmatively to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report**

LGS treasurer, Warren Leblanc, presented the current financials, noting a current balance of \$5,279.15, which was approved.

It was further noted that the current membership total has been reduced from 140 to 79, as those persons having not paid their membership dues have been removed from our rolls.

Leblanc announced notable membership anniversaries.

The written report is attached to these minutes.

## **Old Business**

- Genealogy 101 for June, 2019 will be held from 9:30 – 11:00 at the Southside Library, in lieu of the usual Downtown Library location, due to a scheduling conflict at the Downtown Library.
- In 2018, a presentation regarding the Bureau of Lands was presented by Donna Latiolais and Kathy Higginbotham. They are preparing a document related thereto for the LGS website.

## **New Business**

- The LGS annual publication committee, which presents member's various contributions, such as 4-5 generational charts and/or family stories, will continue to seek submissions until October, 2019.

## **Guest Speaker**

The evening speaker was Shera Broussard LaPoint, owner of Our Roots DNA & Genealogy.

LaPoint primarily uses her knowledge and talent to help adoptees and people of unknown parentage find their family through biological family searches and traditional genealogy. She has assisted over 60 persons in finding their birth parents, with the ever present caveat that not all searches are successful and not everyone wants to be "found."

With her unique "DNA Detective" skills in the genealogy field, LaPoint assisted in identifying a "Jane Doe" found in the "Texas Killing Fields." The Texas Killing Fields is an area bordering the Calder Oil Field, which is a 25-acre patch of land, situated a mile from Interstate Highway 45. Since the early 1970s, 30 bodies of murder victims have been found within the Killing Fields area. These were mainly the bodies of girls or young women.

In April 2018, Detectives started working on the genetic genealogy of Jane Doe with “GEDmatch,” after having obtained the DNA sample from the bone profile of the body. Detectives pieced together family trees in an attempt to identify the victims. After months of constructing family trees, the Detectives utilized FamilyTreeDNA to cross-reference with the DNA profiles of customers in their digital database. Upon obtaining multiple trees of shared ancestry with likely “family origin of Louisiana”, and a serendipitous chain of events, LaPoint was asked to assist. Several relationships were inferred by the trees but LaPoint had to prove the connection, using DNA as a genealogical record in combination with documentary records and data base matching. As Lapoint stated, “DNA speaks and tells the truth. Not everyone in your genealogical tree will be in your genetic tree but everyone in your genetic tree will be in your genealogical tree.”

“Jane Doe” had been missing since 1989. In April, 2019, the case was closed; with acknowledged assistance of LaPoint, “Jane Doe” was identity as Donna Gonsoulin Prudhomme. Donna was a mother of two at the time of her disappearance.

Sheri Broussard Lapoint can be reached at 318-240-3742



**Next Meeting**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2019 at the South Regional Library, 1601 Johnston Street at 6:30 P.M.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Labbe Boudreaux

**TREASURER'S REPORT March**

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Balance     | \$4,939.15        |
| Dues                  | \$300.00          |
| Books sold/Donations  | \$40.00           |
| Supplements sold      |                   |
| Acadian Project       |                   |
| BANQUET               |                   |
| Publication expense   |                   |
| Speaker Meals         |                   |
| Banquet Expenses      |                   |
| Office expense        |                   |
| Other expenses/Rent   |                   |
| Library book          |                   |
| Project               |                   |
| <b>Ending Balance</b> | <b>\$5,279.15</b> |

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| New members for 2019     | 12        |
| <b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>     | <b>79</b> |
| Members with dues unpaid | 0         |

The new members for this month is (are)

|           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|           | Jack/Rita | Simon     |
| Sabrina & | M. H.     | Cassetori |
|           | Debra     | Broussard |
|           | Marian    | Dunbar    |
|           | Chris     | Freeman   |
|           | Maureen   | LeJeune   |

**Members Anniversary**

January's

|       |                         |
|-------|-------------------------|
| 12yrs | Pete Lavergne           |
| 9yrs  | Barbara Thibodeaux      |
| 4yrs  | Joan & Ronald Boudreaux |

February's

|             |                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 29yrs       | James & Lona Bourque        |
| 27yrs       | Warren LeBlanc              |
| 26yrs       | Brenda & John Fuselier      |
| 25yrs       | JoAnn Pugh                  |
| 18yrs       | Earl Gates                  |
| 10yrs       | Brenda Thibodeaux           |
| 3yrs        | Dianna Drury                |
| March's     |                             |
| 9yrs        | Calice & Julia Breaux       |
| 6yrs        | Kathy Higginbotham          |
| 6yrs        | Donna Latiolais             |
| 4yrs        | Terry Graham                |
| 3yrs        | Tamra Broussard             |
| April's     |                             |
| 10yrs       | Everett & Norma Thompson    |
| 8yrs        | David & Cindy Landry        |
| 3yrs        | Mildred Meyers              |
| May's       |                             |
| 4yrs        | Thomas & Karren Hays        |
| 4yrs        | Henry & Shirley Peterson    |
| 3yrs        | Margaret Lynn Dubois        |
| June's      |                             |
| 10yrs       | James & Gloria Peterson     |
| 9yrs        | Regina Bourgeois            |
| 5yrs        | Shirley LeBlanc             |
| 4yrs        | Sandra & Donald Garber      |
| July's      |                             |
| 8yrs        | Marella Wilkerson           |
| 5yrs        | Rosa Silvestrin             |
| 3yrs        | Jasper & Mary Rizzo         |
| August's    |                             |
| 6yrs        | Marcus & Francine Andrepont |
| 6yrs        | Kathy & Buddy Pellerin      |
| 4yrs        | John Love                   |
| September's |                             |
| 7yrs        | Elaine & Allen Lopez        |
| 4yrs        | Dana & Gayle Guidry         |
| November's  |                             |
| 7yrs        | Manuel Ortiz                |
| December's  |                             |
| 8yrs        | Julie Hernandez             |