

Lafayette Genealogical Society
General Monthly Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2021

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held Thursday, May 20, 2021, at the South Regional Lafayette Public Library located at 6101 Johnston Street. The meeting was held at 6:30 p.m., in the auditorium and presented via Zoom for individuals unable to attend in person.

The meeting was called to order by President Joan Boudreaux, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our deceased ancestors and members, as well as all others who are not with us.

Approval of Previous Minutes

President Joan Boudreaux announced that the minutes for the April, 2021 meeting were online and available for review on the <http://lafayettegenealogicalsociety.org> website.

A motion was made, seconded and voted on affirmatively to approve the minutes as posted on the LGS site and dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

LGS treasurer, Warren Leblanc presented the current financials, with a total ending cash balance of \$5,677.94.

It was further noted that we have 18 new members this year, for a total of 91 members and 29 have not paid their dues.

A motion was made, seconded and an affirmative vote was accepted to the treasurer's report.

Old Business

Our scheduled monthly June meeting date will be Thursday, June 17, 2021. The meeting will be held in the auditorium or the meeting room of the South Regional Library and via Zoom. Further information is forthcoming.

Henry Peterson will be available and providing research assistance for anyone interested, this coming Tuesday, May 25th. The schedule for research assistance from

the Lafayette Genealogical Society members is offered every Tuesday from 8:30 – noon in the Genealogy Section (3rd floor) of the Main Branch of the Lafayette Public Library, 301 West Congress St., Lafayette, Louisiana.

Also, Mr. Christopher Melancon would be able to help you locate information, in that section of the Lafayette Public Library's Genealogy Research Room.

New Business

None mentioned.

Evening Speaker



Our guest speaker was Joan Labbe Boudreaux, our Lafayette Genealogical Society President, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the topic *Probate Record Research*. With a wealth of her professional experience, Joan's presentation focused only on how to search probate records and what information is contained within those files.

She discussed how probate documents can be a valuable resource of genealogy information. Records you may learn from are the following:

- Identify spouse(s) and relatives
- Death of other relatives
- Clues for occupation and wealth
- Citizenship
- Residence(s)
- Property
- Adoptions
- Lunacy/Incapacity
- Signatures
- Military service
- Religious affiliation
- Scandals

To begin your research, the group was told that jurisdiction where the probate was filed in the parish, where the deceased resided, but not necessarily where died determines the courthouse. She noted that the change in parish geographical lines over the years will also determine the location of the clerk's office. The Interactive Map of Louisiana Formation History can be found at the following link: <https://www.mapofus.org/louisiana>

A few tips were given that may help you determine where to research. They are as follows:

- Census information available for ancestor (census year, parish, town)
- Death certificates (place of domicile at time of death)
- Compare with maps
- St. Landry Parish 1805 from Opelousas County (original 19 parishes)
- St. Martin Parish 1807 from Attakapas County (original 19 parishes)
- Lafayette Parish 1823 from St. Martin Parish
- Vermilion Parish 1844 from Lafayette Parish
- Acadia Parish 1886 from St. Landry Parish
- Check courthouse information before you go – opening time, physical address, parking, cell phones and computers are allowed, security checks, copy cost, extent of records (dates, any fires destroyed records)

Joan explained how to search the Clerk of Court's records using hand or typewritten indexes in books or by onsite computer systems. The PowerPoint detailed that process and showed examples of her searched findings.

Information handouts were provided to all attendees. Afterwards an open discussion for those wishing to participate in a guided, onsite visit to a few local Clerk of Court offices were discussed. Any specific questions regarding the topic of the presentation and for recommendations of the Clerk of Court offices to visit can be directed to Joan Boudreaux, at her email address BoudreauxJL@gmail.com. Further information for this event will be forthcoming.

Please note that the final PowerPoint presentation will be posted on our society page under Speaker Handouts within the next few weeks at the following link:
<http://lafayettegenealogicalsociety.or/index.php/meetings/meeting-handouts>

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Plaisance