

Lafayette Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, August 16, 2018 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 Brenda Thibodeaux. The meeting began with words of welcome to our members. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. We then had a moment of silence to honor our ancestors and to remember our men and women serving in the armed forces.

President Thibodeaux told everyone that the minutes from the July meeting are online and may be viewed at our new website. Henry Peterson made a motion that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and it was seconded by Allen Matte. The motion passed and everyone is asked to read the minutes on line.

Warren LeBlanc was absent and we did not have a Treasurer's Report.

Brenda Thibodeaux then shared with our group some of her treasured letters written during World War II between her parents and sent by V Mail. She also had her grandfather's missal, an old military manual and some school books. She left them on the front table for anyone to look at after the meeting. She then reminded everyone that they should be putting together information for this year's Memoirs, our yearly publication. Please give your information to Kathy Pellerin.

President Thibodeaux reminded everyone about our annual banquet to be held on December 7 at 11 o'clock at the Petroleum Club. The cost is \$20 per person. The guest speaker will be professional genealogist, Judy Riffel. Please come early as parking is at a premium.

It was announced that Ancestry.com DNA kits are on sale for \$59 until August 20.

Guests were recognized and they included Hilda Schoeffler Degetaire, who is actually a new member, researching the Fuselier and Schoeffler families; and, Joyce and Marshall Perry who found about the meeting from the library billboard, researching their Thibodeaux and Perry families. Sam Lollar from the library staff told the story of a young man about 15 years old who attends a large family gathering each year. He came to the genealogy room at the library and asked for advice on beginning genealogy. Sam told him to bring paper to the next gathering and get as much information as he could from everyone. He was advised to write down names and relationships. This will become valuable in the future when they are no longer available.

With there being no further business, President Thibodeaux introduced our speaker for the evening, Tracy Frederick. She and her husband Craig are society members. She talked to us about using timelines in genealogy to tell a better story of our ancestors. She also stated that there are many, many videos on U-Tube with tutorials about genealogy.



Guest Speaker Tracy Frederick

She starts her timelines on excel spreadsheets. She heads her columns with Date, Age Event, Place Source and Notes. Most of the time it starts with a year, such as birth year. In the event column she puts the event as birth and the place is usually where the baptism took place. The source is very often the baptismal record. Following it up with census dates, etc. Each individual she works on has a timeline. She used her timeline for Roger George Petit, Sr. as an example. He was born in 1892 and

baptized on January 21, 1893. She will add notes if a historical event occurred at that time. She gets her timeline information from records of marriages, deaths, census, military service, family events, historical events, local weather events, historical documents and family stories. Very often in order to get this information, Tracy will simply do a Google search. She uses Wikipedia for an explanation of historical events. Doing this allows her to put together a story. She also uses Pinterest sites to help her with organization. This has allowed her to tell stories of her grandparents and she self-published books on their lives.

Tracy also told us she was inspired by the poem, The Dash by Linda Ellis. The dash is the punctuation mark between a person's birth and death. The dash represents the life lived between the two dates. She also advised us to talk to everyone you can and question them. Find out who were the godparents or the priest who performed each service. This information adds depth to your story.

Evelyn Smith shared with us that she took her grandchildren to the Family History Museum in Salt Lake City, Utah. It is an interactive library just for children and she was amazed at how much they enjoyed it.

After this, Tracy answered questions and passed around the books she did on her family.

At this time, President Thibodeaux asked for a motion to adjourn. Buddy Pellerin made a motion to adjourn and Brenda Fuselier seconded it. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pellerin.
Secretary