

Lafayette Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, October 18, 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. We began with 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 then greeted everyone and welcomed our guests, Gaylen Delcambre who has been doing genealogy for 25 years but is now concentrating on the Morel and Delcambre families; and, Priscilla Deville who is researching the Boutin, Barras and Miguez families.

President Thibodeaux told everyone that the minutes from the September meeting are online and may be viewed at our new website. Henry Peterson motioned that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and it was seconded by Tamara Broussard. 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.

President Thibodeaux invited everyone to the downtown library on Tuesday mornings. She is there along with several others to help people new to genealogy. It is a time set aside to share and help anyone with their brick walls.

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.

Our president then reminded everyone of election of officers next month. We are looking for a President-Elect and Secretary. She asked anyone interested in these offices to please contact her.

Our scheduled speaker for the evening, Dennis Ward, was injured at a fall at his home and was not able to speak this evening. President Thibodeaux informed us that our speaker for November will be Michael Wynn, son of Dr. Edwin Wynn. Dr. Wynn was a prominent pediatrician and it should be an interesting talk.

Henry Peterson generously agreed to fill in as speaker. His talk tonight will be on interesting research he conducted for an adoptee trying to find her biological parents. Henry does a lot of consultation for people conducting similar searches, much like “Long Lost Family” of TV fame. In helping these individuals, he uses DNA in combination with family trees. He needs a large database to make comparisons.



Henry Peterson fills in as speaker in October

This particular individual adapted the attitude of “what is the worse thing that can happen.” This helped her to be more flexible in her research. Henry uses DNA as a tool to verify the research that people have done and sometimes finds discrepancies in trees. Privacy is an issue and the more trees that are public helps to share and collaborate. Very often you find an NPE or non-parental event that

has occurred. To get over this hurdle, contacting and speaking with the owner of these trees is the only way to get over it.

Henry talked about one specific case of Collette. She was adopted and acknowledges that she had a very good relationship with adoptive parents but wanted to know the complete story. Henry began with making comparisons on Ancestry.com. He found many matches but used the first 8; Laura, Susan, Christine, Denee, Tiffany, Chantal, Caroline and Tyler. Ancestry gave him the percentage of DNA match and Collette began contacting these potential cousins. She used verbal hints from her biological mother once she found her. Then used marriage records and obituaries to aid her, sometimes getting too much information that led her in a different direction. She found a "search angel" on Facebook who also aided her.

After finding her mother, her quest to find her father took off in a different direction. The man her mother thought was her father was ruled out by DNA. Once she found out who her father was, she found many more cousins and most importantly, she found ½ siblings. For the most part, it was a happy reunion and they are getting to know each other.

What is most important in finding long lost relatives is building the most accurate tree you can, communicate with DNA matches and be willing to do the leg work needed. Relationships will change as more information becomes known.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pellerin.
Secretary