

Lafayette Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, June 21, 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 a few words of welcome to our members thanking them for their attendance. 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. She then recognized our guests and asked them to introduce themselves. They Included: Barbara Duhon Domingues, Jude Viator, Laura Viator, Mona Badeaux, Rodney Godfrey, Viola Fontenot, P.J. Boudreaux, Susan Landry, Jane Broussard, Chris Vincent, Wayne Avant, Ariel Viator and Judy Hoffman. Many of the guests were friends of our speaker and came to hear his talk. All were welcomed.

President Thibodeaux then reminded everyone that an informal group meets at the downtown library on Tuesday mornings to assist each other with problems we may be having and all are on hand to assist anyone coming to the library to do research. The library opens at 8:30 am and someone is usually there at that time. The session ends at noon and members come in as their schedule permits. Everyone is welcome.

President Thibodeaux told everyone that the minutes from the May meeting are online and may be viewed at our new website. Bob Manual made a motion that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and it was seconded by Henry Peterson. Everyone is encouraged to read the minutes on our website.

Warren LeBlanc was called upon to give the Treasurer's Report for May. It is as follows:

Beginning Balance	\$5,521.44
Dues	220.00

Books Sold/Donations	
Supplements Sold	
Acadian Project	
Banquet	
Publication Expense	
Speaker Meals	
Banquet Expenses	
Office expenses	
Other Expenses/Rent	
Library Book Project	
Ending Balance	\$5,741.44

New Members for 2018	22
TOTAL MEMBERS	114
Members with Dues Unpaid	4

New members for this month are:

Vicki Custer
 Judy Hoffman
 Debra and Troy Southerland
 Chris Vincent

Members with May anniversary of club membership are:

Judy Trahan	6 years
Thomas and Kay Hays	3 years
Toni and John Daigre	3 years
Henry and Shirley Peterson	3 years
Margaret Lynn Dubois	2 years
Becca Begnaud	2 years

The treasure's report was accepted.

Everett Thompson was called upon to update us on the status of the website. Everett has been updating it and adding content. He is trying to make it more user friendly and it should be completed in about 2 weeks. The minutes are on the new website. When completed, the secretary will be able to add the minutes without having to go through Everett. Membership pictures and information will also be updated at a later time.

President Thibodeaux expressed sympathy to our member Cynthia Guilbeau on the death of her brother.

This ended the business part of the meeting.

President Thibodeaux then introduced our speaker for the evening, Rogers Romero who spoke to us on his Acadian and Spanish ancestry.

He began his talk with a disclaimer; that all mistakes were his own. This is a labor of love for him and he makes corrections as they are found.



Rogers Romero speaks to Lafayette Genealogical Society

The first part of his talk began with a timeline of settlement in this area. Between 1604 and 1755 the French settled in Acadie and established families there. 1755 to 1759 saw the deportation of these same settlers to various parts of the globe. Some hid in the woods but eventually met the same fate as their fellow Acadians. 1765 brought some of these people to the Colony of Louisiana where they found land upon which to build new lives. Louisiana, however, was under Spanish rule. The Spanish government welcomed them and they settled at what is now known as Fausse Point on both sides of Bayou Teche.

The Spanish governors also brought in Spanish settlers to the area. The "Islenos" arrived from the Canary Islands, recruited by the governor Bernardo Galvez. They mainly consisted of soldiers who settled in Galveztown, Valenzuela and present-day St. Bernard Parish and Lafourche Parish. Every year they hold a festival to celebrate their arrival in Louisiana.

The Malaguenos arrived from Malaga, Andalusia, Spain in 1779. They settled mainly in today's Iberia Parish and St Mary Parish in Charenton and New Iberia. The Charenton settlers were flooded out and many moved to New Iberia. The Malaguenos settled around Spanish Lake and went to St. Martinville for marriages, christenings and burial

Miguel Romero, an ancestor of Rogers, was one on the founding fathers of the Malagana families. Out of 16 families, only 7 families remain. They include Romero, Miguez, Viator (Villatore), Segura, de Prados, Gary (Garrido) and Lopez. Islenos in our area are represented by the Domingues family, descended from Antonio Dominguez.

St. Martinville seems to be the central point where the different nationalities starting meeting and later marrying. The mixing began at Church. Rogers then showed us ancestry charts of both his Acadian and Spanish families and was able to locate the intermarriage of both ancestors.



Rogers Romero points to screen during to talk

He then gave us the names of his sources. He recommended *A Great and Noble Scheme, The Tragic Story of the French Acadians and Their American Homeland* by John Mack Faragher. *Acadian Redemption: From Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen's Royal Proclamation* by Warren A. Perrin, *George's Island* by Dianne Marshall, *They Tasted Bayou Water* by Maurice Bergerie, *The Canary Islanders of Louisiana* by Gilbert C. Din, *Doomsday Book* translated by Glenn Conrad. He was also aided in his research by Greg Lindsly of the Canary Island Heritage Society of Louisiana and the Sons of the American Revolution of which Rogers is a member.

Mr. Romero then answered question from the members explaining that Georges Island was a prison island off the coast of Nova Scotia where the families of the Acadians were held until the end of the French and Indian War. He also told us that the Doomsday Book is an index of land grants during the early settlement of Attakapas. Another person asked for the spelling of Dominguez which is Spanish and Domingues which is French. This ended his presentation.

Cynthia Guilbeau motioned that the meeting be adjourned and it was seconded by Pete Lavergne. The motion passed and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pellerin
Secretary