

Lafayette Genealogical Society
General Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2021

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held Thursday, June 17, 2021, at the South Regional Lafayette Public Library located at 6101 Johnston Street. The meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. in the library auditorium.

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 deceased.

A welcome and an introduction of our guests and members were announced.

Approval of Previous Minutes

President Joan Boudreaux announced that the minutes for the May, 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 balance of \$5,837.94.

Currently, we have 21 new members. A total of 99 members with paid-up dues and 29 previous members with unpaid dues.

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

Old Business

Prior to our June monthly meeting, a leadership meeting or advisory board meeting was held to discuss present and future plans with our society programs.

Announcement and welcome to Veronica Dennis a new member, who will be assisting our Webmaster, Everett Thompson.

Julie Hernandez mentioned that FamilySearch.org is seeking volunteers, with the input of the indexing project for the 1950 Census for Louisiana, which will begin around April of 2022. Because of our knowledge with names, locations, etc., it would be great if we could gather volunteers from our genealogy group to index information for our state. If you are interested in transcribing indexes, you can log into <https://www.familysearch.org/indexing/> for any project.

Kathy Pellerin announced that any publications of family trees, articles of family members, 1-2 pages biographies, etc. for publication can be submitted by pdf. Early submittal for our yearly publication scrapbook would be greatly appreciated.

Research assistance, by the Lafayette Genealogical Society members will resume 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.

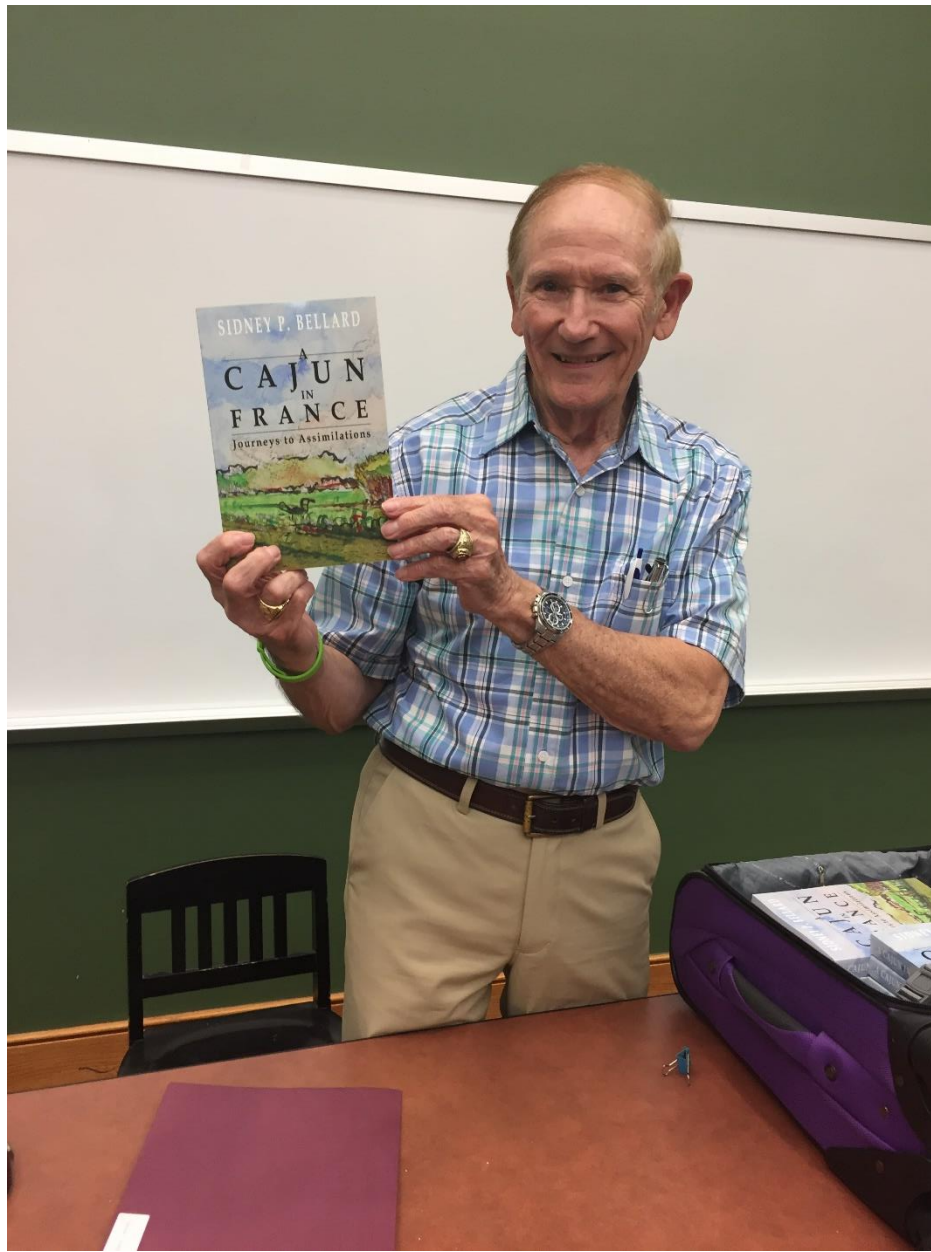
Henry Peterson mentioned that we would be willing to resume the first Saturday of the month assistance program, if enough people were interested in a gathering session, which provides an environment to gain experience and involvement to help others. In the past, the morning roundtable session would meet on the first Saturday of each month at the main library, to share genealogical information and stories.

Our next monthly meeting for July will be held in the meeting room of the South Regional Library, 1601 Johnston Street. Further information will be forthcoming.

Evening Speaker

Our guest speaker was Mr. Sidney P. Bellard, a native of Port Barre, Louisiana. He is an accomplished educator and author. His educational career consisted of teaching European and American History, civics, sociology, geography, English, French and adult literacy. "*A Cajun in France: Journeys to Assimilations*" is his published non-fiction memoir book. You can buy it at www.amazon.com/Cajun-France-Assimilations-encounters-cultures-Cajun.

Mr. Bellard's presentation consisted of pointers for research on genealogy, through his personal experiences with his genealogy search. Like many Cajun families, his history tracked back to a time before there was a state of Louisiana. He retold his family's heritage and his family's generational struggles as sharecropper farmers. How he encountered challenges along his journey such as the language barrier, lack of family educational values, relative poverty, discrimination and insecurity.



He discussed with the group some of the following suggestions that maybe used for researching genealogy.

- Historical period your ancestors lived in could produce a great deal of information
- Geographical areas our ancestors lived can provide many details about them
- Educational levels of your ancestors can reveal much about them
- Ancestors were victims of climate and weather which made an impact for survival such as farming, etc.
- Religion can reveal a great deal about your ancestors – if they were motivated to migrate because of the way they think, attitudes and practices

Born into a French-speaking Cajun family in southwest Louisiana, he spoke about the differences between Cajun and Standard French. The English language became one of his major drives and the second drive was to speak his native language and be fully literate in standard French.

For being a poor Cajun, Sidney's experiences made him responsible for the preservation of a language and a rich culture that exist today.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Plaisance