

Lafayette Genealogical Society
General Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held Thursday, August 19, 2021, at the South Regional Lafayette Public Library located at 6101 Johnston Street. The meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room and presented via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by President Joan Boudreaux, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for all who are deceased, including our ancestors and members.

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 July, 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

Due to difficulty with zoom call with our treasurer, the report was mentioned by President Joan Boudreaux. The society had few expenses and did gain additional members.

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

Old Business

If any member has information for future speakers, please provide suggestions to President Joan Boudreaux or our Vice-President Marc Andrepont.

Concerning our yearly publication scrapbook, a reminder was mentioned to our members to submit any publications of family trees, a 4th generation chart, interesting stories of ancestors, article of family members, charts, etc. Please submit by pdf or searchable format for publications to Kathy Pellerin. Length of articles, etc. is not an issue. Julie Hernandez had examples to show the members which were present.

Genealogy assistance at the main library is provided every Tuesday from 9:00 – noon in the Genealogy Section (3rd floor) of the Main Branch of the Lafayette Public Library, 301 West Congress St., Lafayette, Louisiana. Service is free. Volunteers are welcome to help others with their research. Henry Peterson mentioned that he would be available via Zoom.

New Business

Beginning in September, the library will close at 8:00 p.m. instead of 9:00 p.m. We find it necessary to change the start time of our meetings to 6:00 p.m., in order to exit the meeting in a timely manner.

A motion was made, seconded and an affirmative vote was accepted to change the time from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the third Thursday of the month.

Our next monthly meeting, Thursday, September 16, 2021 will be held at 6:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the South Regional Library, located at 6101 Johnston Street. Further information will be forthcoming.

A special thank you for so many years of service was given to Everett Thompson our previous webmaster. Mr. Thompson dedicated many years designing our website, constructing new membership registration behind the scenes, the mail system and other necessary changes needed for maintenance of our website.

A special welcome was given to Veronica Dennis our new webmaster. We are looking forward to her input and energy. She plans to make the website secure as a her own and make necessary changes to the mail system, etc. Members can now submit photos which will only be visible to our members and not be visible to the public.

Evening Speaker

Our guest speaker was Mr. Jay Schexnaydre, the President of the German-Acadian Coast Historical and Genealogical Society.



Mr. Schexnaydre is a 10th generation native of Convent, St. James Parish, Louisiana, along the Mississippi River, where his ancestors have resided for nearly 300 years, and a current resident of Thibodaux, Louisiana. He has intensely studied the families of the parishes of St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Iberville and Lafourche. He is particularly interested in the complex and extended network of families (and their origins) found along the German Coast, the Acadian Coast, and the Bayou Lafourche region

Mr. Schexnaydre gave a presentation and shared his knowledge with the group, by discussing the European origins of these founding families, the reasons for their immigration, the recruitment of people and their ships, which they boarded for travel. By way of the German Coast Census and the use of photography of maps, he illustrated the early land holdings and village settlements in Louisiana.

The German and Acadian Coasts were the land near the shore along the Mississippi River. The settlements situated just above New Orleans along the Mississippi River's edge. The left coast or left bank was the land located on your left-hand side (the east bank) if traveling down river and the right coast or right bank was the land located on your right-hand side (the west bank) if traveling down river.

The *First German Coast* was located in current day St. Charles Parish along the west bank of the river between the current day communities of Killona and Taft, settled by

Germans as early as 1720s. Other settlers located further up river in St. John the Baptist Parish, near Edgard. The west bank of today's St. John the Baptist Parish became known as the *Second German Coast*. As the population grew over the years, the entire coast on both sides of the river became known as the *German Coast of St. Charles and St. John the Baptist Parish*.

The *First Acadian Coast* was established along the Mississippi River in St. James Parish near the St. James Catholic Church. These Acadians were exiled from Acadia beginning in 1755 by Britain and by the 1760s they had made their way to Louisiana. Many other Acadians exiled to France or along the eastern United States traveled to Louisiana and reunited with family and established homes.

Additional land was needed and the *Second Acadian Coast* was founded further up river in today's Ascension Parish. St. James and part of Ascension became known as the *Acadian Coast*. Germans and Acadians moved up and down the river searching for better opportunities or farm land in different locations and many intermarried. Many German names are found as frequently in St. James and Acadiana names in St. John and St. Charles.

Below is a listing of informative books pertaining to the German Coast settlers, which he shared with the group.

- The German Coast During the Colonial Era 1722-1803 by Helmut Blume
- The Germans of Colonial Louisiana, 1720-1803 (American-German Studies) by Reinhart Kondert
- The German Coast by Glenn Conrad
- Charles Frederick D'Arensborg and the Germans of Colonial Louisiana by Reinhart Kondert
- German Coast Families: European Origins and Settlement in Colonial Louisiana by Albert J. Robichaux
- St. Charles Parish, Louisiana: A Pictorial History by Joan Weaver Becnel

This year marks the 300th anniversary of the founding of the German Coast of Louisiana (1721 – 2021). The following are some of the events which were presented to the group. For further information you can visit their website at <http://www.gachgs.com>

- OKTOBERFEST LUNCHEON – Saturday, October 9, 2021 – 10 a.m. – Vacherie, La.
- YARD SIGN CELEBRATION – Surnames and Non-Surnames are available for purchase through their website, German-Acadian Coast Historical & Genealogical Society



Ms. Cynthia Breaux Seitz

Ms. Cynthia Breaux Seitz of Seitz Travel was also present to give out handouts, for their upcoming May 11-29, 2022 German Coast Tricentennial Tour to the countries of France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Luxembourg. Cynthia is the owner/operator of Seitz Travel. Special tour guests on this trip will be Mr. Al Robichaux and Mr. Jay Schexnaydre. For additional information you can visit Seitz Travel, LLC, 321 Gaidry Dr., Gray, LA 70359, Phone: 985-991-6178, Email: cynthia@seitztravel.com and visit their website at www.seitztravel.com and <https://seitztravel.com/german-heritage-tour>

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Plaisance