

# Lafayette Genealogical Society

## Meeting Minutes

### February 16, 2017



Before the regular February meeting began, Treasurer Warren LeBlanc (on the right) presented the 2016 Les Memoirs to Sam Lollard of the Lafayette Public Library staff.

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the South Regional Library, 1601 Johnston Street. The meeting was called to order by President Brenda Fuselier. After a few words of welcome, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence to honor our ancestors who have gone before us and our armed forces. Guests were then asked to introduce themselves. They Included: Billie and Bob Henry, who are members but had not attended in a while; Brandy LeBlanc who is researching the Romero, Sonnier and Hebert families; Donna Latiolais, the Carencro Genealogy Society President; Donnie and Karen Hayes researching the Lejeune and Pousson families, Gary Wilkinson who is researching the Clouatre family, Glenn Kelly and Elsie, a visitor from Ontario, Canada.

At this time President Fuselier stated that the January minutes were posted to our website and asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Martha Landraneau made the motion and it was seconded by Judy Trahan. A vote was taken, the motion passed and everyone is encouraged to read the minutes on-line.

Warren LeBlanc was called upon to give the Treasurer's Report. The January report is listed below:

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$4, 853.47</b>
Dues Collected	40.00
Books Sold/Donations	
Supplements Sold	
Acadiana Project	
Banquet	20.00
Publication Expense	
Speaker Meals	
Banquet Expense	
Office Expense	-66.01
Other Expense/Rental	-600.00
Library Book Project	
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$4,247.46</b>

New Members for 2017:                   14  
Members with dues unpaid:           101

Everett Thompson was also unable to attend the meeting so President Fuselier gave some information about the DNA groups. Saturday, January 21, was the last beginner DNA group. In its place Everett has created a video which is available on the Lafayette Genealogical Society's website. In this video he gives an overview on what one can expect from a DNA test, what kinds of tests are available and which one you should take to begin with. He will also talk about what to do with the results. The advanced group will continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month with location based upon room availability.

On March 4, Genealogy 101 will meet at the downtown library. One of Dudley LeBlanc's granddaughters will be present to give us information on the republication of her grandfather's books. This is the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original publication and the books have been reworked. She lives in California and will be here for a short time and this was the best possible time for her to speak to our group. President Fuselier also took the time to remind us that the Main Library has 4 computers devoted to genealogy and that volunteers are always needed on Tuesday mornings to help newcomers with their research.

President Fuselier was contacted by the organizers of the Celtic Festival about our participation. The venue has changed this year and it will be held in a park with no shelter. We would have to work

outside so she made the decision that the society would not participate in an official capacity. She also stated that the Celtic organization got started late in organizing the festival and the location of the event was changed from last year.

Acadiana Hospice is looking for volunteers to talk to patients and write down their life stories. They will provide training. Please contact Brenda Fuselier if you are interested.

The 2016 Les Memoirs, our official publication, is available on the website in the member's only section. It contains pictures and articles provided by society members. Please be thinking about contributing to the 2017 edition.

The Estate of Huey Breaux has Volumes 1-41 of Fr. Hebert's books available for purchase. He also has set of So. Louisiana Records which included Houma and Thibodeaux for sale. Please contact Brenda Fuselier for more information.

This ended the business part of the meeting.

At this time President Fuselier introduced our guest speakers for the evening, Warren and Mary Broussard Perrin. She also introduced Allen Broussard, President of the Broussard Family Association and Brenda Broussard, Secretary of that organization. All of them are very involved in the New Acadiana Project which is searching for the camps and burial places of the 1<sup>st</sup> Acadians to come to the Attakapas Post.



Warren Perrin began by telling us about the event which was held at the New Orleans Mint in February celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the group of Acadian refugees led by the brothers, Joseph and Alexandre Broussard. He had a slide presentation and showed us the poster drawn by his son which shows the Acadians praying and dancing with Beausoleil walking along the boardwalk. St. Louis Church is in the background.

Mr. Perrin gave a short history of how Acadians got from France to Acadie/Nova Scotia, their relationship with the Native Americans they found there, and how their population grew and prospered. Their relationship with the English was not as prosperous and Governor Charles Lawrence of Massachusetts planned their deportation and expulsion from Acadie with the intention of making them accept English rule and become good English citizens. He then called upon his wife, Mary Broussard Perrin, to talk about the Pierre Landry family who were separated from the grandfather who was put on a boat with the children while the parents were taken somewhere else. As soon as they could, the parents began actively searching for their children. They requested traveling papers and wrote to as many people as they could to locate their children. No trace of the grandfather could be found but the children were finally located in Connecticut. By this time the children no longer remembered their French language or their parents. Sadly, no one knows how this story turned out and it has been lost to history.



Mary Broussard Perrin speaks with society members about her talk

Warren resumed his presentation and gave us a short history of what became of the Beausoleil party upon the arrival in New Orleans. They were housed in a warehouse and given food and provisions since they arrived with virtually nothing. The leaders of the group negotiated the Dautrive Cattle Compact and were brought to the Attakapas area to raise cattle. They were able to live on their own and were not indentured to Mm. Dautrive. This was important because there was a shortage of beef in New Orleans.

About 200 people arrived in the party. Burial records by a Priest traveling with the party show that about 3 months after arrival, about 39 people died possibly from small pox. The priest writes that they divided into 3 groups and lived at 3 campsites. The people were buried at one of their campsites. The survivors built palmetto huts and began carving out a new life in the Louisiana wilderness.

Mr. Perrin then introduced the New Acadiana Project and began by telling us that the project was under the direction of Dr. Mark Reese, professor at UL Lafayette. He showed slides of some of the artifacts being found at the site where shovel testing and radar is being used to try to find burial sites.

There are 2 confirmed sites, namely, the Broussard Cemetery and the Berard Cemetery. These are old family sites and it is possible that there may be unknown older gravesites there.

The New Acadiana Projects has raised \$250,000.00 since its inception in 2013. They approached the Town Council of Loreauville. The town council and mayor were looking for something to promote their town and it was a good fit with this project. Students and volunteers began by interviewing the older town resident to get their stories and information. The field work has been going on for 3 summers and 2 fall seasons.

He then introduced Allen Broussard who continued to talk on the project. He is very actively involved in the project and updated us on what is currently happening. On April 1 there will be a Fun Day in Loreauville to raise funds beginning with a 5k run in the morning.



Allen Broussard speaking on the New Acadia Project

He said that the Evangeline Story is just a myth and has done much harm to the Acadian Story. The Acadian history is much more interesting and much deeper. If the actual grave sites are located, it will help the area to become a World Heritage Site and partner with the World Heritage Site in Nova Scotia. They are working on UNESCO Certification. At this point in the presentation, questions from the audience were answered.



Allen Broussard speaks with members at conclusion of meeting

A



Warren Perrin signs books for members at meeting

There being no further business, President Fuselier asked for a motion to adjourn. Martha Landreneau made the motion and it was seconded by Shirley LeBlanc. The motion passed and we adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pellerin  
Secretary