

# Lafayette Genealogical Society

## Meeting Minutes

### March 16, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, March 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 and our armed forces. Guests were then asked to introduce themselves. They Included: Susan Broussard Meaux who is researching the Meaux, Abshire and Broussard families; Ben Freeman who is researching the Honeycutt and Bentley families; Cynthia Guilbeau; Virginia Broussard who is researching the Broussard, Faulk and Davidson families; and Barbara Laviolette who is researching her son-in-law's family, the Maillho's. At this time Martha Landreneau brought up that she has been researching the Marcantelle family and they are her "brick wall". She has been to Lake Charles and did not have much luck. President Fuselier encouraged her to go back to Lake Charles and ask for help since they have been most helpful to Brenda.

The President took this time to thank everyone for bringing refreshments that were enjoyed by all.

The February minutes were posted to our website this afternoon at 1 pm and she encouraged everyone to read them. She then asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Brenda Thibodeaux made the motion and it was seconded by Judy Trahan. A vote was taken, the motion passed. Members who cannot attend the meetings can keep up with society activity by reading the minutes on-line.

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

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$4,247.46</b>
Dues Collected	
Books Sold/Donations	
Supplements Sold	

Acadiana Project	
Banquet	
Publication Expense	
Speaker Meals	
Banquet Expense	
Office Expense	
Other Expense/Rental	
Library Book Project	
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$4,247.46</b>

New Members for 2017: 22  
Members with dues unpaid: 70

Treasurer Warren LeBlanc then read the projected budget for 2017:

Beginning Bank Balance	<b>\$4,853.47</b>
<b>PROJECTED REVENUES</b>	
Projected Dues (100 members x \$20.00)	2,000.00
Books (CD) Sold (5x \$5.00 ea.)	25.00
Cemetery Book/CD	175.00
Supplements Sold (4 x \$5.00)	20.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES</b>	<b>\$2,220.00</b>
<b>PROJECTED EXPENDITURES</b>	
Publication	400.00
Speaker Meals/Expenses	100.00
Storage Rent	600.00
Banquet Prizes	50.00
Office Expenses (Copies and Postage)	300.00
Other Expenses	150.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,600.00</b>
<b>ENDING BANK BALANCE</b>	<b>\$5,473.47</b>

There was some discussion on the projected budget then President Fuselier called for a motion. Richard Foreman moved that the February Treasurer's Report and the 2017 Projected Budget be adopted. The motion was seconded by Brenda Thibodeaux. A vote was taken and the motion passed. Both the February Treasurer's Report and the 2017 Projected Budget were approved.

Everett Thompson has agreed to continue to update our website. The password for the 2017 term will be changed in the next month or two in order for people to get their dues current. Only paid members have access to the "Member's Only" page on our website which contains all of our publications. If anyone has paid and does not have access to this page, please see Warren LeBlanc.

Sam Lollard of the library staff asked President Fuselier to remind everyone that there is a list of magazine titles on the bulletin board in the genealogy room of the library downtown. These magazines are in storage due to lack of space and can be obtained upon request. Several members made a request that we get a copy machine in the genealogy room. People may be less inclined to cut out the pages from the books. Sam said he will ask again.

The March 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday meeting of the genealogy group had a visit from Michelle LeBlanc, who is Dudley LeBlanc's granddaughter. She has edited and re-released her grandfather's publications. Brenda Fuselier had copies of both the old and the new versions and invited members to look at them after the meeting.

The Carencro Genealogy meeting will be held this coming Saturday, March 18 at the library beginning at 10 am.

President Fuselier then brought up the fact that some of our older members will no longer be able to attend our Thursday evening meetings. Many of them can no longer drive at night or in inclement weather. She asked members to consider a change in meeting day and time. This will be brought up again.

Acadiana Hospice is looking for volunteers. President Brenda Fuselier attended their meeting. She was under the impression that they were looking for people to write a life story for the patients. However, that was not the case and they are looking for regular volunteers. If you are interested, see Brenda for forms to fill out and sent to hospice.

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.

This ended the business part of the meeting.

At this time President Fuselier introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Louis Perrett. Mr. Perrett is the Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court and has been for the past 17 years. He remembered speaking to our group several years ago about the resources available at the parish courthouse.

He began by telling us about the fact that the current courthouse is the 5<sup>th</sup> to be built on this spot. We got the history of each successive courthouse. He then gave us some information on his family tree with Perrett being a French surname and the first Perrett arriving in New Orleans in 1723.



Guest Speaker Louis Perrett talks about the Courthouse Building

There is a wealth of information and documents at the Courthouse with over 18 million documents available. In 1812, Louisiana became a state and Lafayette was located within St. Martin Parish. It separated and formed its own parish in 1823. In 1844, Vermillion Parish was formed from the lower part of Lafayette. Lafayette Parish employs 96 people to run the clerk's office.

He then began to tell us about what documents are to be found at the courthouse. Probates or successions tell us who owned what property. The oldest succession dates back to 1860. Military discharge records are registered with the clerk's office. They are now classified as confidential because of incidences of identity theft. The oldest military records date to 1823.

You can also find naturalizations records, election results, corner inquests, criminal records, juvenile and some adoption records, oath books, maps and plats. The courthouse contains marriage license records. One of the things that this courthouse does is collect and scan old pictures which used to be featured in the local newspaper but, sadly, no longer. People used to tell him how much they enjoyed seeing these photos.

Last year 6,800 suits were files and 794 successions opened. 11 people were found mentally disabled, 5,625 crimes and arrests and 8,000 traffic citations issued.

Right now the clerk's office is being remodeled and they are on the top floor of the courthouse. Within 3 or 4 weeks, they should be back in their old/new office space.

Mr. Perrett told us how he is employing UL students to scan and preserve the courthouse records for future generations. Many of the old records are very brittle and break apart if handled too much. The rest of his presentation consisted of stories of particular cases which he found most interesting. He also talked about the building at 202 West Lafayette Street and its many lives. He also talked about the bomb shelter built in the 1965 and present day courthouse. 911 is housed in that location now. He went on to answer questions from the audience. One person wanted to know how much it costs to use the available records over the internet. The cost is \$65.00 per month. He is looking for a way that people can have 1 day access. That may be in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



After the meeting Louis Perrett visited with Jeanette Robideaux

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Pellerin  
Secretary