

Lafayette Genealogical Society

Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held on Thursday, July 19, 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: Gerald Doiron who is researching the Doiron and Racca families; Sandra Daigle Trahan who is doing some research for her doctor; Kenneth Trahan; Deadra Doucet Bourke who is heading an American Indian DNA group on the internet which connects Acadians to their Native American ancestors; Terry Cousins visiting from California; and, Glenn Lanclos and his wife from Leonville.

President Thibodeaux told everyone that the minutes from the June meeting are online and may be viewed at our new website. Caliste Breaux made a motion that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and it was seconded by Allen Matte. The motion passed and everyone is asked to read the minutes on line.

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

Beginning Balance	\$5,741.44
Dues	120.00
Books Sold/Donations	
Supplements Sold	
Acadian Project	

Banquet	
Publication Expense	
Speaker Meals	
Banquet Expenses	
Office expenses	-186.12
Other Expenses/Rent	
Library Book Project	
Ending Balance	\$5,675.32

New Members for 2018 32
 TOTAL MEMBERS 127
 Members with Dues Unpaid 3
 Members with June anniversary of club membership are:

James and Gloria Peterson	9 years
Regina Bourgeois	8 years
Shirley and John LeBlanc	4 years
Sandra and Donald Garber	3 years
Richard Foreman	2 years

The treasure's report was accepted.

President Thibodeaux then gave us the dates of some upcoming events including our annual banquet to be held on December 7 at noon at the Petroleum Club. Father Jason Vidrine will be speaking on July 21 at the Ville Platte library on his recent trip to France. Shirley Broussard is at the Parklane Library in New Iberia on Wednesdays from 1 to 3:30 to assist those doing research in Iberia Parish and the Lafayette Society meets on Tuesday mornings at the Lafayette downtown library from 8:30 to noon. Volunteers are always welcomed.

Everette Thompson asked for feedback on our new website. Everyone liked the pictures. He asked for help with transferring obits to find-a-grave. He also stated that the member pictures will be updated. If anyone has a current headshot of themselves, please email it to him.

Several members spoke highly about Viola Fontenot's book *A Cajun Girl's Sharecropping Years*. It is available at Amazon.com.

With no more new business, President Thibodeaux then introduced our speaker for the evening, Marty Guidry who spoke to us on Acadians in Maryland. He is the President of the Guidry Family Association and is originally from Abbeville but he presently lives in Baton Rouge.

Dressed in traditional garb, he began his talk with the statement that 1/4 of all Acadians arriving in Louisiana were coming from Maryland. He also played a recording of *Tears in Your Eyes* written and performed by Seth Guidry, a young man from Arnaudville who died much too young.



Marty Guidry addresses group

The talk then moved to the history of Acadie which began to be settled in the mid 1600's. In 1636 the St. Jehan sailed from La Rochelle to Acadie. The Acadians came from all over France with 50% being from the Center West region. The population increased with new arrivals coming in. The rulers of Acadie changed often. There were at least 6 wars fought with possession changing according to who the winner was. The Acadians pledged to remain neutral. The British wanted good English stock to inhabit the land so on July 28, 1755 the order was signed to expel them from the area. The oath to

remain neutral was not enough. At Annapolis and Grand Pre the men, from 10 years and older, were ordered to the church where they were made prisoners and the order to expel them was read. The oath was the prime reason for expulsion but not the only one. Many Acadians had aided the French troops and some were captured at the French fort. The English were afraid that the Acadians would take up arms against and besides, they inhabited some of the most fertile farmland in the new world.

The order was signed in July but it was mid-September when the first departures began. The first wave was to the Eastern Seaboard of the colonies. The Maryland Gazette announced on November 20 1755 that w ships of Neutral French had arrived on their shores. On December 4, 1755 the remaining 2 ships arrived. The inhabitants of Maryland had no prior knowledge of the arrival of these people. Baltimore was a town of about 200 homes and barely had a population of 800 people. The arrival of these people doubled it. The Maryland authorities decided to split up the people and they were sent along the Chesapeake shores. In the meantime, the war between France and England, started in 1754 and known in America as the French and Indian War, continued to rage. The British General Braddock was killed at the battle of the Monongheala in 1755. This sealed the fate of any remaining Acadians in Nova Scotia and many were removed to France.

Mr. Guidry showed stats of how many Acadians arrived in Maryland and how many went to Louisiana. He also explained where and how they lived, what accommodations were made for worship and how they supported themselves. Many chose to make their living at sea and became fishermen. A few prospered and chose to remain in Maryland at the end of the war. Some Anglicized their names as they acclimated into American society. The LeBlanc's became White, The Dupuis became Wells, Aucoin became Wedge, Doiron became Gold and Hebert became Bear. At the war's end in 1763, the Acadians had heard about Louisiana and sold all of their possessions or petitioned the government to pay the expenses to Louisiana. They arrived in two waves, settling along the Mississippi River and began to rebuild their lives.



President Brenda Thibodeaux presents guest speaker Marty Guidry with certificate

Along with Marie Rundquist and Greg Wood, Marty has constructed a website Acadianswerehere.org to show what remains of the Acadian presence in Maryland which is not much. The three of them, especially Marie, have been instrumental in erecting signs to show where they resided. He also explained his dress which consisted of wooden shoes called sabots, a flax wide brim hat and a muslin shirt and pants. President Thibodeaux thanked him for his talk and presented him with a certificate.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pellerin
Secretary