

Lafayette Genealogical Society
General Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2021

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Lafayette Genealogical Society was held Thursday, September 16, 2021, at the South Regional Lafayette Public Library located at 6101 Johnston Street. The meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room.

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 August, 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 treasure, Warren Leblanc was not present at the meeting. President Joan Boudreaux confirmed finances were in good standing.

New Business

The group discussed buying equipment for LGS zoom meetings for the club. Further information will be forthcoming, after investigating prices of camera and other equipment.

Old Business

If members want to provide information for future speakers for our meetings, please forward speaker suggestions to President Joan Boudreaux or Vice-President Marc Andrepont.

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.

LGS is now taking nominations for next year's officers to fill the position of Vice President and the position of Secretary. Mark Andrepont has accepted to be next year's President. Please provide information to an officer, if you know of anyone that would be interested.

The French Mass at St. John's Cathedral and Mini-Fete Great Acadian Awakening, was scheduled for October 10, 2021, at the Cajun Dome in Lafayette. This event was mentioned at the meeting, but has been cancelled due to the surge in Covid cases. Louisiane-Acadie will instead focus its efforts on 2022's GRA events. For further information, please view their website at: <https://www.louisianeacadie.com>

Our next monthly meeting for October 21, will be held in the meeting room of the South Regional Library, 1601 Johnston Street. Newspaper Research will be our topic of discussion.

Evening Speaker



Our guest speaker was Mr. Harris "Buddy" Pellerin a retired Clinical Social Worker and a member of the Lafayette Genealogy Society.

Mr. Pellerin has a Bachelor Degree from UL and a Masters from LSU. He was in private counseling practice in Baton Rouge before retiring. His career entailed various positions such as; Counseling Director for Hospice of central Mississippi, Family Program Coordinator for the hemophilia program at the University of Mississippi Medical

Center, the Region Four Mental Health Manager for Tricare and supervised mental health case managers in the Southeastern United States.

Mr. Pellerin conducted several professional workshops for Social Workers and Professional Counselors in Louisiana, the Mississippi Judicial College, the Mississippi LPN Association, Delta State University, Humana Military Health Services, and the Louisiana Funeral Directors Association.

Harris was a past-President of the Mental Health Association of Greater Baton Rouge and a Board member. He served as the past-Vice President of Hospice of Acadiana and a member of the Board of Directors.

From the old world to the new world, Louisiana was struck with diseases of cholera, smallpox, malaria, yellow fever, Spanish flu, and polio. Mr. Pellerin gave a presentation on the two most deadly diseases to strike Louisiana. He shared his research on the history of smallpox and yellow fever. The group was presented with the history and how the people of Louisiana responded to the challenges they were faced with. These diseases impacted Louisianians physical health, and influenced the areas economically, socially and politically.

By way of his presentation with maps, he discussed and illustrated the outbreaks of the epidemics of these diseases in certain areas throughout the parishes, by referencing the years in which they occurred. Yellow fever followed the parishes along the Mississippi River, due to the swampy areas, port cities and urban areas. Hardest hit was New Orleans, because it was a major port city. Outbreaks of yellow fever in Louisiana occurred sporadically in the decade following the first epidemic in 1796 and ending with the last major epidemic in 1905. Smallpox came to North America in the 1600's and the epidemic arrived in Louisiana about 1755.

The following are only a few of the interesting topics he discussed.

- Yellow fever – epidemic also called “black vomit” because one of the common symptoms is hemorrhagic bleeding in the stomach – also called “yellow jack” since areas were under quarantine traditionally displayed a yellow flag. “Jack” was sailors’ slang term for “flag”. Ships with yellow fever had to fly a yellow flag upon entry to ports.
- One method used to control epidemic – “shot gun quarantine”, barriers were put in place in certain areas in the state, trains were not allowed, areas refusing to engage in trade, letters and parcels were fumigated, men with shot guns protected their areas.
- Established in 1855, The Louisiana State Board of Health was the first state board in the United States, which implemented and oversaw measures relating to quarantine and public health.

For interesting reading, below are two books which he recommended to the group.

- The Demon in the Freezer: A True Story by Richard Preston
- The Coming Plague by Laurie Garrett

If anyone would like further information or have any questions, Mr. Pellerin can be reached at his email address which is HpellerinLCSW@Gmail.com

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Plaisance