



# TERREBONNE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 20295  
HOUMA, LA 70361  
**NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 43 No. 6

August 2024

**NEXT MEETING      AUGUST 31, 2024      1:00 PM**  
**MAIN BRANCH LIBRARY, 151 Library Dr., Houma, LA**  
**D.E. ROOM 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

**CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY  
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Impressive! Bill McGee presented the history of Laurel Valley Plantation in Thibodaux. Etienne Boudreaux was the first known individual who resided on the property. In 1785, he bought a Spanish land grant. He raised his family there and increased acreage over the years. In 1832, he sold the property to a plantation owner from MS named Joseph Tucker who set up Laurel Valley. Later, Wormald, another owner, was the first to show a profit. Then Lepine, an experienced planter purchased the plantation. He established a Railroad linking mills and fields. The Plantation's debt was paid off. Today a member of the Lepine family currently owns the plantation complex. Bill explained that tourism and preservation of the Laurel complex were a major goal. Over the past five years, money brought in from tours and grants has helped with improvements. One-half mile of fencing and a pathway for walking has been achieved. An event building may be rented for parties. He said during hurricane Ida, 12 buildings were lost. Subsequently materials salvaged are being used for repairs. Double houses are the oldest version of houses on the complex and they were probably slave houses. Bill noted marketing is best through Facebook, and through Facebook the names of families that inhabited the village years ago have been elicited. Also, a comprehensive list of enslaved who resided on the plantation is now available. Bill has seen an increase in guests visiting the complex as changes occur.

The Lafourche Heritage Society Annual Genealogy and History Seminar was phenomenal. Hunt Downer filled in for Will Theriot of the Regional Military Museum. He told how the Museum got started with a few guys who had Military memorabilia from different people and asked the question what we are going to do with these things. Now Houma has the Regional Military Museum everyone is welcome to visit. Alan Gauthreaux spoke on the Louisiana Italian History, Heritage, & Traditions. Jari Honora of New Orleans, LA talked about Enslaved People, Free People of Color, Sugar Planters & a Mayflower by using DNA. He also helped with the Finding Your Roots program. Brian Costello of New Roads, LA spoke on Creole Mosaic of Pointe Coupee Parish. Martha Aubert of Opelousas, LA spoke about the Orphan Train Museum which honors the

inspiring story of abandoned and homeless children who were rescued and came to Louisiana on what is known as the Orphan Train Riders from the New York Foundling Hospital. There will be a 15 Year Museum Anniversary on October 12, 2024, from 10am to 2pm. For more information call (337) 948-9922. There is so much to tell but space is limited, and you would have had to been there to hear the speakers yourself to really appreciate it for yourself.

This month is our research month, and we do not have a speaker this month. We will be on the 2nd floor in the D.E. Room, so we will be around the genealogy room for research. Bring the family names you would like to research.

## DEATHS



Jeanette BREAUX USIE, a radiant soul who graced this world with her feisty spirit and warm embrace. Born on October 26, 1936, in Terrebonne Parish, LA, Jeanette shared her love and light with all who crossed her path until she peacefully departed on August 4, 2024. Visitation in her honor was on Saturday, August 10, 2024, at St. Ann Catholic Church. Burial to follow in church cemetery. Jeanette is survived by her brother, Norris Breaux, Jr. (Judy), and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, **Leryes Usie (they were members of Terrebonne Genealogical Society)**; parents, Norris Breaux and Corrine Champagne Breaux; brother, Floyd Breaux (Delores); sisters, Jane Lirette (Jimmy) and Theresa Trahan (Edmond "Nan"); and maternal and paternal grandparents. Jeanette's exuberance and zest for life were matched only by her love for her husband, with whom she shared countless dances, card games, and adventures in their travels. She found joy in the simplest pleasures, relishing nights out dining and nurturing her yard with care and dedication. Always by her husband's side, she was his steadfast companion and confidante. Jeanette spent years working for the USDA as a Lab Tech. The family would like to thank Haydel Memorial Hospice, The Claiborne at Thibodaux, Janet and Oran Thibodeaux, Lorraine and Raymond LeBouef, Jill Usie and family, and Denise and Karl Adams for their amazing care and compassion during her final years. Chauvin Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jeanette Usie.

### TERREBONNE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	ROOM/FLOOR	BOARD	GENERAL
8-31-2024	Main Branch	D. E. Rm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl		1:00 PM
9-28-2024	Main Branch	Large Rm 1 <sup>st</sup> Fl	11:00 AM	1:00 PM
10-26-2024	North Branch	Large Rm 1 <sup>st</sup> Fl	11:00 AM	1:00 PM
<i>No Meeting in November</i>				
12-14-2024	Main Branch	Large Rm 1 <sup>st</sup> Fl		Noon

**Check out our website: [www.terrebonnegenealogicalsociety.org](http://www.terrebonnegenealogicalsociety.org)  
Facebook Group: Terrebonne Genealogical Society**