**LHRAB Meeting, Wednesday, March 11, 2015**

**Present were: Florent Hardy, Jr., Tara Laver, Brian Lestage, Michael Wynne, and Freddie DeBlieux. Regrets were: Brenda Parsons, Jacqueline Jones, Lee Leumas. We have not yet received an official resignation letter from Judith Gentry**

**Dr. Hardy said “our lives are a series of experiences.” He is blessed with a great memory, which is a blessing in his line of work. He mentioned that today’s youth live in a small world, and are often not aware of the impact of their varied experiences.**

**Mike is a serious garage sale attender. He is interested in collections others overlook. He discovered an old wooden box stuffed with folders, papers, etc. covering every aspect of an Alexandria pilot’s business and airplane experiences from 1946-1948: a meticulous collection in pristine condition. Mike wanted to find someone who would want the collection and leave it in its entirety. Dr. Hardy knew that Vincent Caire would be the person to contact. He would assist Michael in contacting Mr. Caire.**

**Mike suggested that we look into the practice of honoring individuals who contribute to Louisiana’s rich history by appointing ambassadors.**

**Freddie: Researching guidelines on the computer will be something I will do. Should we appoint a committee to decide? How stringent will the guidelines be? “Friends” who donate money, time, attendance.**

**When asked about the SOS/Archives budget, Dr. Hardy mentioned that he prefers a wait-and-see approach. We just learned that Archives will again be opened the first Saturday of the month. Great news.**

**Conversation flowed quickly about the state’s finances and covered a lot of ground with everyone speaking on various subjects and objects.**

**Brian: spoke on rumors LSUA becoming a 4 year university and adding a law school.**

**Mike: spoke on cuts to LSU and having lunch with the Chancellor/President of LSUA. He mentioned ”Un-landscaping” the prison grounds as a budget cutting project.**

**Dr. Hardy said that Archives was temporarily closed on the first Saturday of the month, but was recently re-opened. We don’t know what the schedule will ultimately be.**

**Freddie said that increased interest in genealogy seems to have taken place recently. Beth Davis, Archives Vital Records had answered 187 requests last week for birth and death certificates.**

**Mike said The Genealogy Road Show going back to “Roots” was a hot subject. Then he talked about “Who do you think you are?” and its impact on genealogy research.**

**Tara wanted to ask Judy Riffle how they do that, get the support items for the show? Is it by subscription? You pay for European information.**

**Mike mentioned the amazing documents used to support information. Research conducted here at Archives and at LSU.**

**Dr. Hardy mentioned this year’s Historic New Orleans Collection’s Symposium. The topic was The Battle of New Orleans. He visited with individuals across the spectrum and that everyone is increasingly impressed with archives and their rich resources. As a result, he was invited to visit the Hermann-Grima House, beautiful facility, rich in history.**

**Mike: We need to be enthusiastic to preserve our history.**

**2015 Archives Month: Tara/LSU Special Collections wants to participate. Dr. Hardy mentioned that he has had several requests already.**

**Mike: The Advocate changed so much Mike cancelled his subscription. Baton Rouge is almost left out and now the content is mostly New Roads and Acadiana.**

**Dr. Hardy mentioned the Charity Hospital lecture by the Foundation for Historical Louisiana. Dr. Robertson, the author of a recently published book donated to the State Archives was a lecturer.**

**Possibility of a Genealogy Workshop April or May. Topics: genealogy, preservation, scrapbooks.**

**Friday, May 15 SPRING FLING LUNCHEON**

**Archives related events included in newsletter. Next FRIENDS newsletter will be published in late spring, early summer—after Spring Fling Luncheon.**

**Meeting was adjourned.**

**P.S. Brian’s son came with Brian to genealogy research in library. Employed at Premiere Directional Drilling**