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MINUTES  
JANUARY 13, 1998  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
GENERAL MEETING  
The Eiband Gallery  
2201 POST OFFICE  
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

MEMBERS

Board Present: President, R. Dale Olson; SVP, Kathy Modzelewski; TVP Jim Nonus; Rec./Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Editor-of Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Coordinator of Research, Bill Foley; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Archivist, Richard Rasche; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

Board Absent: FVP Jean Epperson; Treasurer, Jim Earthman

Members-at-Large: Joe & Judy Dolfi, Mary Frances & Lloyd Johnson, Bill Leopold, Don Marler, Tom and Sarita Oertling, Ginny Roberts, A.M. and Marcia Wilcox, Wil Zapalac

## CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

## MINUTES:

Minutes were approved with one correction, motion by Bill Foley, seconded by Diane Olson.

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

Second Vice-President Kathy Modzelewski, standing in for Jim Earthman, reported a balance of approximately \$680.00 in the treasury.

## MEMBERSHIP:

SVP Kathy stated that The Laffite Society now has approximately 72 members.

## SPECIAL EVENTS:

SVP Kathy mentioned that Robert Vogel had sent updated flyers on the special event planned for March 13-15, 1998 at Lake Charles, hosted by the Vogels. Flyers were given out to members present.

Dale stated he would attend a meeting of an archival association in

Lafayette, LA the last weekend in May. He will moderate a panel on the subject of what information the archive has on Laffite. There may be plans also to visit St. Martinsville in the Evangeline Oak area during this time.

## PUBLICATIONS:

Jeff Modzelewski, Editor-of-Publications, acknowledged with thanks those members who had contributed descriptive information on past special events for The Chronicles. There may be another issue of The Chronicles coming out the end of February, Jeff said.

## PHOTOS:

Historian, Bernadette Foley, urged members to contribute photos to The Lafitte Society album. Dave Roberts asked for several examples of recent photos taken at the Louisiana Historical Society event to submit to The Galveston County Daily News.

## WEST YORKSHIRE THOMAS BEALE PROJECT:

Secretary Dorothy Karilanovic reported on her extensive correspondence with Richard B. Smith, who represents The Company, a group of researchers in West Yorkshire, Eng. and their on-going project to decipher the Thomas Beale code. She stated that Mr. Smith had assured her that the Laffite Society would be the recipient of any biographical information the ciphers revealed. Correspondence on hold since December 12, 1997.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET:

The President called for a Board of Directors meeting on Friday, January 16, 1998, 6:00 p.m., at The Eiband Gallery.

## CANARY ISLANDERS OF LOUISIANA:

Dale stated he had received an invitation to attend an annual meeting of The Islaños of Louisiana. Membership consists of descendants of the Canary Islands of Spanish origin who settled in Louisiana in the 18th Century, as well as other persons with an interest in the history of the area. The President mentioned that members of The Islaños have expressed an interest in visiting Galveston to speak at a Laffite Society meeting.

## MEETING ADJOURNED:

The General Meeting of The Laffite Society was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

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MINUTES  
JANUARY 16, 1998  
BOARD MEETING  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
The Eiband Gallery  
2201 POST OFFICE  
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

**BOARD PRESENT:** President, R. Dale Olson; Second Vice-President Kathy Modzelewski, TVP Jim Nonus; Rec./Corresp. Secty., Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Editor of Publications Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director Dave Roberts; Coordinator of Research Bill Foley; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Archivist, Richard Rasche; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

**BOARD ABSENT:** First Vice-President Jean Epperson; Treasurer, Jim Earthman

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**BINDERS:**

The President reminded Board members to update their job descriptions in their binders and to include any information that succeeding officers might need in carrying out their duties. Binders

are kept in the archival room of The Eiband Gallery.

#### NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR '98-'99:

Dale reminded the Board of the up-coming election of officers in July. He suggested that a nominating committee be chosen at the next Board meeting in April.

#### APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Following discussion, motion was made and seconded by Jim Nonus and Dave Roberts to appoint an Advisory Committee limited to 10 persons. These individuals are to be designated by the President. No amendment of the By-Laws is needed for these appointments since the official designation will be a "committee" rather than a "board," and the functions of members will reflect those duties normally assigned to a committee rather than a Board.

#### FUTURE MEETING SITES:

The President confirmed that, for the time being, meetings would continue to be held at The Eiband Gallery.

#### CATALOGUING THE ARCHIVES:

Members were reminded that it is still necessary to continue to catalog the contents of The Laffite Society Archive. Archivist Dick Rasche stated that he had already begun a card catalogue

some months ago. (Note: Some of the contents of the archive which had been on loan have since been removed to another site. This may necessitate a revision of the card file.)

#### MEETING TIME:

The regular meetings will continue to be held the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

#### SPECIAL EVENT IN GALVESTON:

The President suggested that the Board give some thought to hosting a weekend event of interest to all Laffite Society members and anyone with an interest in the work of the Society.

#### APRIL SPECIAL EVENT AT THE EARTHMAN'S:

Discussion on inviting prospective members to the April buffet supper to be hosted annually by members Jim and Margaret Earthman at their historic home at 1502 Broadway.

#### PHOTO ALBUM:

Discussion on the idea of publishing an album of photos taken at previous special events, such as at Grande Isle and Grand Terre.

## CHECK SIGNATURE:

As has been the practice in the past, the Board decided that only one signature, that of the Treasurer, was necessary to endorse payment.

## BUDGET MATTERS:

Discussion on financial projection and assets will be held at the April Board meeting.

## SPONSORSHIPS FOR INVITED SPEAKERS:

The Board decided not to form a special advance fund for invited speakers, until such an event is organized and a speaker has been chosen.

## TAPED RADIO PROGRAMS:

Press Director Dave Roberts stated he has 52 topics on Laffite subject matter from which to prepare taped radio programs to be aired over Galveston's station KGBC. He said he would create a prototype for members' approval.

**PRIMER:**

Discussion on continuance of the Laffite Primer. It was decided to adopt a "time-line" format for this document, rather than a narrative one.

**MINUTES UNCOMPLETED:**

As the Secretary had to leave the meeting at 8:15 p.m., prior to its closing, Minutes for this session were not completed.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

The Board Meeting was adjourned about 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresp. Secretary  
The Laffite Society

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MINUTES  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
FEBRUARY 10, 1998  
GENERAL MEETING  
The Eiband Gallery  
2201 Post Office Street  
Galveston, Texas 77550

MEMBERS

- Board Present: President, R. Dale Olson; First Vice-President, Jean L. Epperson; SVP Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secty., Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Editor-of-Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Coor./Res., Bill Foley; Archivist, Richard Rasche
- Board Absent: TVP Jim Nonus; Treasurer, Jim Earthman; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson
- Members-at-Large: Mary Frances and Lloyd Johnson, William Leopold, Walter and Joan Modzelewski, George Najarian, Don Peake, Ginny Roberts, A.M. Wilcox, Betty and Reginald Wilson, Wil Zapalac
- Guests: Elaine Johnson, Dorothy Snow Lucas, Alexandra Ross

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:28 p.m.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS

The President welcomed visitors Elaine Johnson, Dorothy Snow Lucas, and Alexandra Ross.

## MINUTES

The Secretary read the Minutes of the General Meeting of January 13, which were approved as read.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

SVP Kathy Modzelewski, standing in for Treasurer Jim Earthman, reported a balance in the treasury of \$950.00

## EAST END HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

The President acknowledged member Don Peake's outstanding leadership and dedication to the East End Historical Association, and to the preparation of its newsletter. Laffite Society member Jeff Modzelewski's column, "Corsair's Corner," which appears regularly in the newsletter, was also recognized for its excellence.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

SVP Kathy Modzelewski urged those who are planning to attend the Lake Charles event hosted by Robert Vogel to send in their registration forms and to make their hotel reservations.

Dale mentioned the up-coming meeting in Lafayette, LA of the Southwest Archival Association the last week in May, at which he will participate as a panel moderator for a discussion on Laffite documents housed in certain archives. Plans are being considered for a visit to St. Martinsville during this trip.

The President also mentioned that still scheduled is the annual buffet reception in April at the home of Jim and Margaret Earthman, pending confirmation of a date.

## LAFFITE SOCIETY MENTIONED IN TIMES PICAYUNE

The President said that Bill Reeves, President of The Louisiana Historical Society, had sent him a copy of an announcement in the New Orleans TIMES PICAYUNE referring to the January 8th visit of The Laffite Society at which Dale was the principal speaker.

## NOMINATION OF LS OFFICERS

The President reminded members to be thinking of whom they might like to nominate for office in the new term beginning August of this year. A nominating committee is to be chosen in March.

## LETTER FROM PIERRE LAFFITE DESCENDANT

SVP Kathy Modzelewski reported receiving a letter from Mary Tomes Prinz of 3004 Palm Vista Drive, Kenner, LA, 70065-1559. Mrs. Prinz stated that she believes her husband was a descendant of Charles Laffite, son of Pierre. She provided a brief sketch of a line of descent.

## OBITUARY OF FRANÇOISE SEL

Dale showed members a xeroxed copy of the obituary of Françoise Sel from a New Orleans newspaper, dated Nov., 1855.

## INQUIRIES ABOUT LAFFITE ON THE INCREASE

Reginald Wilson reported that on a recent visit to the Sam House Library and Research Center at Liberty he had learned of additional material on the Laffite family housed in the library, which he had not seen previously on his many visits to research this family. He also mentioned that the library reports it has been receiving an increased number of inquiries about THE JOURNAL.

## EARLY MAINLAND FRENCH FAMILIES

First-time visitor to a LS meeting, Dorothy Snow Lucas, from the Hitchcock, Texas area, stated that she is a descendant of a French family who settled in that area in the mid-to late 1800s, along with others, such as the Tacquard family, who arrived in the 1830s, of which there are many living descendants still located in that area. She suggested that someone from the LS might want to consider contacting Jo Ann Click Robinson of the Hitchcock Historical Society to inquire about historical info of the area pertaining to families who settled there not long after the departure of the Laffites and their associates from Galveston in 1820-21.

### PRESENTATION

First Vice-President Jean L. Epperson read her letter of Jan. 18, 1998, to Mr. Manuel Barrera, author of Then the Gringos Came, the purpose of which was to offer the latter correct information obtained during her extensive research, especially with regard to the fact that Ramón Lafon was not Jean Laffite as stated by Mr. Barrera in his book. Jean's letter also recounted many other details relating to the activities of Martin de Leon and Ramón Lafon, who founded Port Isabel, Texas and Brazos Santiago

### MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no other business, the General Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

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(Corrected May 7, 1998)

MINUTES  
March 10, 1998  
General Meeting  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
The Eiband Gallery  
2201 Post Office  
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, R. Dale Olson; Second Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Resp./Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Editor of Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President, Jean L. Epperson; Treasurer, Jim Earthman; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Coordinator of Research, Bill Foley; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Archivist, Richard Rasche

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Louise Martin, George Najarian, Robert Vogel and Kathleen Taylor Vogel, Reginald and Betty Wilson, Wil Zapalac

GUESTS: Norman and Marguerite (Margie) Sachnik

#### CALL TO ORDER

Following a brief gathering for refreshments, the meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m.

#### MINUTES

The Minutes of the February 10th General Meeting were approved as read.

#### MEMBERSHIP

SVP Kathy Modzelewski reported there are now approximately 80 paid members in The Laffite Society.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

TVP Jim Nonus stated that the annual buffet reception at the home of Jim and Margaret Earthman would be on April 26, 1998, pending confirmation of the date by the Earthmans.

Jim volunteered to gather information on the old Castillo Hotel in St. Martinville for the May 28, 29, 30 trip to Louisiana where Dale would participate as a moderator at the Southwest Society of Archivists in Lafayette.

Members Robert Vogel and Kathleen Taylor Vogel gave a pre-view of the events be held in Lake Charles Mar. 13-15, hosted by Prof. Tom Watson and wife Carol and the Vogels.

## NEW PUBLICATION

Robert Vogel announced he would have available for purchase a new publication entitled Jean Laffite in American History: A Bibliographic Guide, produced by White Pine Press of Saint Paul, MN, the first work to be issued from this press which is owned by Robert and Kathy. The Guide lists 218 books, articles, theses and unpublished duplicated works. Vogel and Taylor are also working on a companion volume entitled Jean Laffite in American Literature, Theater and Film, also to be published by White Pine Press in early 1999.

## CHRONICLES

Editor of Publications Jeff Modzelewski said he hoped have the next issue of THE CHRONICLES out by the end of April.

## ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Parliamentarian Diane announced the formation by appointment of a nominating committee for new officers, to consist of Jim Nonus, Chairman, Bernadette Foley, and Diane Olson.

## APRIL MEETING

The President stated that a regular meeting would be held the second Tuesday of April, in addition to the special buffet event of April 26.

## NEW BOOK OF MASONIC INTEREST

Jeff Modzelewski stated he had acquired for his collection a book by John Quincey Adams, entitled Letters on the Masonic Institution, Boston: Press of T.R. Marvin, No. 24 Congress St., 1847. The book contains a letter addressed to Edward Livingston, one of Laffite's attorneys.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Due to time constraints, the talk on the Privateer Seal, to be given by Dr. Reginald Wilson, was deferred until a later date.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McD. Karilanovic  
Secretary, THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

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MINUTES  
April 14, 1998  
General Meeting  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
The Eiband Gallery  
2201 Post Office  
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

BOARD PRESENT: First Vice-President (FVP), Jean L. Epperson; SVP Kathy Modzelewski; Rec./Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Editor of Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Coordinator of Research, Bill Foley; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Archivist, Richard Rasche

BOARD ABSENT: President, R. Dale Olson; TVP Jim Nonus; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Don & Jeanette Hayder; Elaine Johnson; Dorothy Lucas; Louise Martin; George Najarian; Norman & Margie Sachnik; Reginald and Betty Wilson; Wil Zapalac

#### CALL-TO-ORDER

Following a brief gathering for refreshments, the First Vice-President called the General Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

#### MINUTES

The Secretary read the Minutes of the March 10th meeting which were approved as read.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

SVP Kathy Modzelewski reported a balance in the treasury of \$1,501.00.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

SVP Kathy, standing in for TVP Jim Nonus, reminded members to RSVP for the April 26 buffet reception April 26 at the home of Jim and Margaret Earthman.

Since the block of rooms at The Castillo Hotel in St. Martinville has already been booked by LS members, the Secretary provided additional information on two Bed

and Breakfast homes located 5 blocks from The Castillo for members who plan to attend the meeting of the Southwest Society of Archivists in Lafayette May 29-31, 1998.

## LS CHRONICLES

Ed./Publications Jeff Modzelewski said that copies of the next issue of THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES, Vol. IV: Number 1, February, 1998, would be given out at the April 26 buffet reception at the Earthmans' home, available for prospective members who might be in attendance.

## LETTERS OF THANKS TO THE EDITOR OF LAKE CHARLES NEWSPAPER AND TO EVENT HOSTS

Ed./Publications Jeff Modzelewski read a copy of the letter he had prepared to send to the Lake Charles newspaper, thanking the city and local hosts for the exemplary hospitality extended to LS members during their visit to Lake Charles March 13-15, 1998.

Secretary, Dorothy K., also reported that copies were on file of letters of thanks she had written on behalf of the LS to Tom and Carol Watson, Robert and Kathleen Vogel, Charles & Linda Dessommes, Armand and Janelle Brahm, and Jack Mitchell Associates (Contraband Pirates) for their contributions during the Lake Charles event.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR NEW OFFICERS OF THE LS

Due to absence of Chairman of Nominating Committee, no report was available.

## ARCHEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS, MAISON ROUGE

FVP Jean L. Epperson reported that The Houston Archeological Society is in the process of inspecting artifacts from the excavational investigations at the Maison Rouge site. Fifteen to twenty pieces of a type of ceramic known as Wormware have been identified.

## ARTICLES FOR ARCHIVES

Member-at-Large Elaine Johnson donated a xeroxed copy of a reprint of The Story of Champ D'A'sile (Book Club of Texas Publication) to the LS archives, as well as a xeroxed copy of Days of Exile by Winston Smith.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Reginald Wilson presented a discussion of facts he had assembled on the possible burial site of Pierre Laffite in the Yucatan. Provided for members' interest were the following: 1) a xeroxed copy of a notarized page, dated May 13, 1947, from a Laffite Family Bible showing a line of descent from Jean Laffite to his great-grandson John A. Laffite 2) a xeroxed copy of a map focusing on Dzinzantun, Yucatan, alleged site of the burial of Pierre Laffite in November of 1821.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the General Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
The Laffite Society

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MINUTES  
May 12, 1998  
GENERAL MEETING  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
The Eiband Gallery  
2201 Post Office  
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

BOARD PRESENT: R. Dale Olson, President; First Vice-President (FVP) Jean L. Epperson; SVP Kathy Modzelewski; Rec. /Corresp. Secty., Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Coor. Res. Bill Foley; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Archivist Richard Rasche; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: TVP Jim Nonus; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III; Editor of Publications, Jeff Modzelewski

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Kenneth Deaton; Judy Dolfi; Jeanette & Don Haydel; John & Susan Hunger; Dorothy Snow Lucas; Louise Martin; George Najarian; Don Peak; Ginny Roberts; A.M. Wilcox; Reginald and Betty Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

SPECIAL TOPIC

"PRIVATEER SEAL"

by

REGINALD WILSON

Dr. Reginald Wilson spoke on his research efforts to trace the origin and use of a privateering seal, found on page 212 of The Journal of Jean Laffite; the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story on which also appears a signature of Jean Laffite, and also on page 101 of the book Prince of Pirates. The original seal which is said to have had a paper border incorporating silver and gold paper depicts an eagle grasping a serpent in its beak. Other elements in the seal remain to be confirmed: a possible "armadillo" on

which the eagle is perched (some say it may be a "crown with 5 points), lightening bolts in the eagle's talons, and what may be the letters "No." for "Number" or the number 13; also letters Y S D. Dr. Wilson distributed Xeroxed copies to members of 3 representations, one in color, of the seal, and called for close examination of the seal's elements in an effort to identify them.

Following his talk, the President thanked Dr. Wilson and also acknowledged the early research contribution in the discovery of the seal by Member-at-Large Pam Keyes, former editor of The Laffite Study Group newsletter.

## MINUTES

The Secretary read the Minutes of the April 14 General meeting which were approved as read.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Second Vice-President Kathy Modzelewski, standing in for Treasurer Jim Earthman, reported a balance in the treasury of \$1,238.60.

## MEMBERSHIP

SVP Kathy stated that there are now 89 paid members of the LS.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

President Dale Olson, standing in for TVP Jim Nonus, reported on the upcoming trip to Lafayette, LA May 29 at which he will moderate a panel at the Southwest Society of Archivists entitled "In Search of Jean Laffite: Archival vs. Library Holdings Relating to Laffite-Era Privateering, the True Story." The panel consists of the following persons:

- 1) Sally K. Reeves, New Orleans Notarial Archives, New Orleans:  
"Privateering in the Gulf of Mexico: True Stories from the Notarial Archives, 1805-1815."
- 2) Robert L. Schaadt, Director-Archivist, Sam Houston Regional Library, Liberty, Texas: "The Jean Laffite Journal; its History and Controversy."
- 3) Barbara Rust, Archivist, NARA (National Archives and Records Administration), Fort Worth Region: "Piracy and the Law: New Orleans Federal Court Records, 1806-1820."

The President stated that, following the meeting on May 29 in Lafayette, those members who wished to do so would be traveling on to St. Martinville, LA for 2 days' stay at The Old Castillo Hotel on the Bayou Teche, and a visit to surrounding sites of historical interest.

## OFFICERS' JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The Secretary reported that she was going to place a description of each officer's job description in the respective binders now housed in the LS archive room at Eiband's, where, following election of new officers, the forms could then be reviewed and amended as needed.

## BROADCAST TAPES OF HISTORICAL VINGETTES

Press Director Dave Roberts presented an audio tape of a script he had written and recorded on Jean Laffite. Dave proposed that 52 tapes would be needed for presentation over Galveston radio station KGBC, and called for volunteers to help write the scripts in a format of 3 double-spaced pages, the text not to exceed 3 minutes in reading time. Member Susan Hunger suggested that topics be assigned to volunteers by the Press Director.

The President appointed a committee to oversee preparation of the scripts, designated as follows: Kenneth Deaton, Jean L. Epperson, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic, Jeff Modzelewski, and Don Peak.

## NOMINATION OF NEW OFFICERS

Parliamentarian Diane Olson read the slate of nominees for Board offices for 1998-2000, as follows: Pres., Kathy Modzelewski; FVP (Programs), Dave Roberts; SVP (Membership), Judy Dolfi; TVP (Special Events), Jim Nonus; Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Editor-of-Publication, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director, George Najarian; Archivist, Don Marler; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Coordinator-of-Research, Wil Zapalac; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson. Advisory Board Recommendations: Jim Earthman, Jean Epperson, Bill Foley, Pam Keyes, Robert Looper, Randy Pace, Robert Vogel, Reginald Wilson.

The President suggested that, following election of new officers, an ad hoc meeting be called to include out-going officers and newly elected ones, to discuss Board duties and new options.

## VOLUNTEERS FOR PROVISION OF REFRESHMENTS

The President mentioned that, following election of new officers, members might want to consider assignments on a voluntary, monthly basis to provide refreshments at the LS meetings so that this effort can be more equally shared.

## AREA EVENTS FOCUSING ON LAFFITE

Descriptive information was provided announcing (1) that at the International Oleander Society meeting at Moody Gardens, May 16, 1998, Dr. Stephen Curley of Texas A.&M University, Galveston, would speak on "The Popular Images of Jean Laffite." and "The Galveston Sea Chantey in Oleander Time." 2) A new 18-minute film on Laffite, by producer Grant Mitchell and Associates has been completed, depicting "The Last Dinner on Galveston Island," which refers to a gathering of Laffite and some of his associates prior to dissolution of his commune and his departure from Galveston Island in 1820. Historical figures Jane Long and Lt. Kearny appear in the film as "ghostly figures" in retrospect. TVP Jim Nonus will have a supporting role in the film which also focusses on 3 Galveston locations: the sailing ship Elissa; an outdoor night scene in the sand dunes of east Galveston; and an interior dining room scene filmed in the 19th century Letitia Rosenberg House. The film is to be shown alternately with "The Great Storm" at Galveston's Seaport Museum, said to begin in late summer.

## NEW TRANSLATION OF THE JOURNAL OF JEAN LAFFITE . . .

The President announced that Prof. Tom Watson of Lake Charles has arranged for Prof. Jean Marshall of McNeese University, linguist and scholar in the French language, to begin a new translation of the The Journal of Jean Laffite: the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story in order to provide an alternative scholarly opinion as to accuracy in translation and in an attempt to verify the authenticity of other linguistic elements expressed by the alleged French-speaking author of the controversial journal.

## NEW RESEARCH SOURCE ON JEAN LAFFITE

The President stated that Laffite researcher and author Robert Vogel informed him that in a volume of documents from the Cuban Archives, housed at The University of Minnesota, he had located a reference to Jean Laffite's escape from a Cuban prison in 1822.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, REFRESHMENTS

Thanks extended to Louise Martin for providing home-baked chocolate cookies and to Dale & Diane Olson for beverages and other refreshments.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the President called the meeting to a close at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
The Laffite Society

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MINUTES  
June 9, 1998  
GENERAL MEETING  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
The Eiband Gallery  
2201 Post Office  
Galveston, Texas 77550

**BOARD PRESENT:** FVP Jean L. Epperson; SVP Kathy Modzelewski;  
Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic;  
Editor-of-Publication, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director,  
Dave Roberts; Coor./Res., Bill Foley; Historian,  
Bernadette Foley

**BOARD ABSENT:** President R. Dale Olson; TVP Jim Nonus, Treasurer,  
James B. Earthman, III, Archivist, Richard Rasche;  
Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:** John E. Hunger, Susan Baker Olsen Hunger,  
Donald T. Peak, Virginia (Ginny) Roberts, Margie  
& Norman Sachnik, Arthur Wilcox, Reginald &  
Betty Wilson

**CALL TO ORDER**

The First Vice-President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

The Secretary read the Minutes of May 12 which were approved as read.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jeff Modzelewski, standing in for Jim Earthman, reported a balance of approximately \$1,300.00 in the LS treasury as of 5/31/98.

**MEMBERSHIP**

SVP Kathy Modzelewski reported three new members on file - one through Internet contact.

## LS WEBB SITE

A suggestion was made to include the LS Webb Site address in the next issue of *The Chronicles*, and to include a table of contents in the Webb page itself.

## CORRESPONDENCE FROM PENNY CLARK

Courtesy of Kathy Modzelewski, Penny Clark, former curator at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, TX., sent a greeting card to LS members with the news that she had resigned her position at the Sam Houston library, and had moved back to her home town in the mid-west.

## BROADCAST TAPES OF LAFFITE HISTORICAL VIGNETTES

Press Director Dave Roberts distributed copies to members of 28 topics he had thought of, relating to Laffite history, and called for volunteers to consider choices of topics they might like to write on. Members are to submit their choices to Dave at a subsequent meeting to insure that there will be no overlap.

## NOMINATIONS OF NEW OFFICERS

SVP Kathy Modzelewski reminded members that voting for a new slate of officers for 1998-2000 will take place at the July meeting of the LS. A list of nominees will be sent to the membership.

## INFORMATION ON THE BEALE CODE-LAFFITE CONNECTION

The Secretary reported that on June 3 she had received a carefully prepared and presented file consisting of about 20 pp. from the West Yorkshire group, "The Company" who are in the process of decoding the Thomas Beale ciphers. This info was sent in response to the Secretary's request for better verification of The Company's claims that the deaths of Jean and Pierre Laffite occurred in 1823-24, and that Thomas J. Beale and Jean Laffite were one and the same person. The information will be reviewed through a Board discussion, and a response prepared in due course.

## CULP CEMETERY DISCOVERY

Reginald Wilson discussed on-going activities relating to verification of the alleged burial site of Jean Laffite in Alton, Illinois, according to a statement from John A. Lafflin describing a trip he had made with his grandfather Jules Laffite in 1922, during which the latter led John A. to a spot surrounded on a small hill where

there was a small iron fence, and indicated it as the place of burial of Jean Laffite, which he [Jules] said he had last visited in 1854.

#### LETTER FROM PAM KEYES RE DE LA PEÑA DIARY

Reginald Wilson showed members a letter he had received from Member Pam Keyes in which she stated she had found in the book, Legends & Lies, Great Mysteries of the American West, by Dale Walker (1997), a claim made by autograph specialist Charles Hamilton that the José Enrique de la Peña diary written in 1836 and published in the 1950s was a forgery created, in addition to The Journal, by John A. Lafflin. Hamilton's claim was based on the fact that "the two works had certain phrases that were similar, but one was in Spanish and the other in French."

Pam Keyes plans to contest this claim at an upcoming meeting and to show the Peña book and samples of phrases for members' interest.

#### SPECIAL PERFORMANCE by STRAND THEATRE TROUPE

Members of the cast of a new musical-historical stage production, Jean Laffite of the Maison Rouge, presented a staging of one dramatic scene from the play soon to have its world premier on July 9 at the Strand Theatre in Galveston. The performance was very well received and congratulations extended to the play's author and director William Burford, Executive Director of The Strand Theatre, and to the talented cast of players.

Plans are being considered for a special event reception and attendance as a group of LS members.

#### OTHER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks are extended to Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski and staff at Eiband's for providing refreshments before and after the meeting.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**The meeting was adjourned following the special performance at 8:30 p.m.**

**Submitted by,**

**Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
The Laffite Society**

**\dk**

JULY 14, 1998  
GENERAL MEETING  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
THE EIBAND'S GALLERY  
2201 Post Office Street  
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: R. Dale Olson, President; FVP Jean L. Epperson; SVP Kathy Modzelewski; Editor-of-Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Dir., Dave Roberts; Coor./Res. Bill Foley; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Archivist, Richard Rasche; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: TVP Jim Nonus; Rec./Corresp. Secretary Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jim Earthman

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Joe and Judy Dolfi; Jeanette Haydel; Lou MacBeth; Louise Martin; George Najarian; Ginny Roberts; Reginald and Betty Wilson

GUESTS: David and Bridgett Dolfi (Los Altos, CA); Scott and Jill Knapp (Denver, CO); Marjorie Rasche; Mr. & Mrs. Bo Whittington (Liberty, TX); one guest of Lou MacBeth

#### CALL TO ORDER

The President called the General Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Due to a power outage caused by thunderstorms, the meeting area was moved to inside the exterior front doors of The gallery.

#### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

by R. Dale Olson

#### "SACCARAP, AN EARLY CITY ON GALVESTON ISLAND"

R. Dale Olson, as a final presentation of his tenure as President of The Laffite Society for 1996-1998, spoke about the early city of Saccarap. which was located on the east end of what is now called Galveston Island from about 1835 to 1837. Saccarap extended from what is today 14th street east and was bordered on the north by what is now Harborside Drive (Avenue A), and on the south, by the island's main thoroughfare, Broadway. The city, said to have been established by settlers from

Maine who brought with them the Indian name of "Sacarrap," remained in existence for only a short while, its demise partly a result of the destruction by a bore worm of Turner's Wharf which had served as the port of entry for passengers and commerce. At this time the center of business activity also shifted further West to what is probably now the present commercial center of the city of Galveston.

The story of Saccarap will appear in an upcoming issue of The Laffite Society Chronicles.

## MINUTES

Due to absence of the secretary, Minutes of the June 9th meeting were not available. Archivist Richard Rasche, standing in for this date's meeting, provided an outline of the Minutes from which the Secretary might prepare a final version.

## NOMINATION OF NEW OFFICERS

Parliamentarian Diane Olson presented the slate of nominees for Board offices for 1998-2000, all of which were voted in by acclamation.

## BOARD MEETING OF OLD & NEW OFFICERS

A meeting of both groups of officers will be held at 6:00 p.m. on July 22 to review duties of respective positions and objectives for the coming term.

## HENDRICK'S CASTLE ON THE MAISON ROUGE SITE

President Dale Olson mentioned he had been in touch with Don Henricks [sic] from California, a descendant of the Hendricks family who had built the late 19th century mansion on the alleged site of Jean Laffite's Maison Rouge, and great-grandson of George Johnson who also had lived in the house.

## CARTAGENA FLAG

FVP Jean Epperson reported she had sent a letter prepared by the LS Secretary in Spanish to the National Museums of Venezuela, SA to request a copy of a design or picture of the Cartagena revolutionary flag. Jean is in the process of having an artistic rendering in color made of the flag in accordance with the details of its description she has at present. It is intended that this will be reproduced in an upcoming issue of THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES.

## CULP CEMETERY SEARCH, ALTON IL

Reginald Wilson reported that his relative who is searching for the alleged burial site of Jean Laffite in Illinois had contacted a man who had been employed by the cemetery from 1930s-60s, but that this individual claimed to know nothing of the Laffite grave site, which had been supposedly surrounded by a small iron railing. The former employee made reference to another person, a "grave digger," now deceased, who might have known some of these details.

## THE LAFFITES AT BARACOA, CUBA

In a letter to Reginald Wilson, Laffite researcher in France, Patrick Laffite, reported that he and a group of Laffite researchers have located evidence that Pierre, Jean, and Dominique Youx were in Baracoa, Cuba in about 1798. No sources for this information were provided.

## DAVID ALLEN, LAFFITE RESEARCHER

Reginald Wilson mentioned he had acquired a copy of a letter originally sent to Gov. Price Daniels, from David Allen, then a student at a New York college preparing a Master's thesis on Jean Laffite. Reginald, who answered the letter, said that David Allen mentioned he had taught school in Alton, Illinois.

## LIGHTS OFF/LIGHTS ON

The power outage that earlier in the evening had made it necessary to conduct the LS meeting by candlelight and dusk ended about 7:57 p.m.

## "LAFFITE OF THE MAISON ROUGE," A THEATRICAL PRODUCTION

The President remarked that the current production in progress of the play above was very well received by those members who attended the first night's performance, and that it obtained good reviews in the local Galveston County Daily News.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

File

MINUTES  
JULY 22, 1998  
BOARD MEETING  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
The Eiband's Gallery  
2201 Post Office  
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, R. Dale Olson; SVP Kathy Modzelewski; Rec./Corresp. Secty., Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Editor-of-Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Coor./Res., Bill Foley; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: FVP Jean L. Epperson; TVP Jim Nonus; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III; Press Dir., Dave Roberts; Archivist, Richard Rasche

#### CALL TO ORDER

The President called the Board Meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

#### MINUTES

Minutes of the January 16 Board Meeting were accepted as read.

#### FINAL REVIEW BY OUTGOING PRESIDENT, WITH SUGGESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM BOARD

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1) President R. Dale Olson thanked Editor-of Publications Jeff Modzelewski for his dedication and excellence over the last four years in editing and preparing for print all material for THE CHRONICLES, and for his steady effort to bring up to date all issues of THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES from inception of the Society in Aug., 1994, to February of 1998.

2) The President also acknowledged Jeff Modzelewski's careful documentation and incorporation into a computer data base of all of the Society's financial transactions since its inception in August, 1994.

#### REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

A suggestion was made that the new Program Chairman for 1998-2000 (FVP Dave Roberts) might want to call for volunteers on a rotational basis to provide refreshments at each LS meeting, and to establish a guideline for expenses for such

refreshments. Members are to be reminded at each meeting to contribute what they can at monthly meetings toward the cost of refreshments. To facilitate reimbursement costs and to provide financial documentation for a budget projection, Jeff suggested that volunteers fill out vouchers to claim expenses. Money collected for refreshments might be entered into the financial data base as "donations," from which specific uses can be designated. Discussion followed on objectives for use of this "donation" fund with suggestions such as 1) underwrite the expenses of special lectures 2) pay for costs of special publications by the Society.

## WRITE-UPS OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Editor-of-Publications Jeff Modzelewski asked the Board to consider assignment of write-ups of the Society's special events to members prior to the occurrence of the event so that they might keep a more accurate account of the details of such activities.

## RADIO TAPES

Jeff Modzelewski suggested that Board Members might want to consider as subject matter for radio vignettes on Laffite history, material from the column he writes which is published in "Corsair's Corner," a column in the East End Historical Association's newsletter.

A suggestion was made to critique & edit radio scripts written by members during the regular meeting sessions, with the objective of eventually incorporating them into a publication.

## SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

The Editor of Publications suggested that information relating to the solicitation of a general sponsorship fund for invited speakers be deleted from THE CHRONICLES, the decision being to call for funds only at the time a speaker has accepted an invitation to appear at the LS.

## ADVISORY BOARD RECOGNITION

Suggestion that Advisory Board members receive a special acknowledgment by invitation to special events of the LS.

## A HOME FOR THE ARCHIVE

The President mentioned that members might want to begin to think about locating a new, permanent site for The Laffite Society archives. Suggestion that an Archive Committee be formed for this purpose.

## BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY FOR COVERAGE

**Suggestion:** In the event a Board member cannot carry out his duties or assignment for a particular objective, he or she is to designate a substitute to fill in.

## REGULAR REVIEW OF OFFICERS

**Suggestion:** Officers should have the opportunity at regular intervals to give an up-date on the progress of their contributions and to discuss matters relating to the function of their offices.

## IMPORTANCE OF MINUTES

Editor-of-Publications Jeff Modzelewski acknowledged the importance of the Society's Minutes in preparing articles and entries for THE CHRONICLES, and thanked the Society's Secretary for managing this task.

## MEETING FORMAT

Discussion on whether or not to have the business segment of the LS meetings held only on Board meeting dates. Decision deferred.

## COMMITTEE TO RESPOND TO CORRESPONDENTS

**Suggestion:** A committee might be formed to answer letters received from readers responding to editorial articles submitted by the Press Director to various newspapers.

## SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Jeff Modzelewski suggested that a committee be formed to appoint various members with the required skills and willingness to present talks on Laffite history at schools and at various public events.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the Board Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk

MINUTES  
AUGUST 11, 1998  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
GENERAL MEETING  
Eiband's Gallery  
2201 POST OFFICE  
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: Pres., Kathy Modzelewski; FVP Dave Roberts; SVP Judy Dolfi; Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski; Editor-of-Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: TVP Jim Nonus; Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Press Director, George Najarian; Archivist, Don Marler; Coordinator of Research, Wil Zapalac; Historian, Bernadette Foley

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Jeanette Haydel; John Hunger and Susan Baker-Olsen Hunger; Louise Martin; R. Dale Olson; Richard Rasche; Margie Sachnik; Art and Marcia Wilcox

#### CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. New Board President Kathy Mozelewski expressed her thanks on behalf of The Laffite Society to past Board President R. Dale Olson for his contributions over two terms, and acknowledged the accomplishments and participation of founding members Dorothy McD. Karilanovic, Jim Nonus, and Diane Olson.

#### MINUTES

In the absence of the Secretary, The President reviewed the Minutes of the July meeting which were approved as read.

#### THE CHRONICLES

Jeff Modzelewski, in his capacity as Editor-of-Publications, stated that the next issue of The Laffite Society Chronicles, planned for September, will cover the period January through June, 1998.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

New Treasurer Jeff Modzelewski reported a balance at the end of July of approximately \$1,377.00. Some of these funds will be used to cover expenses,

principally for printing of the next issue of *The Chronicles*, and for postage, over the next couple of months.

## BOOK PURCHASES

Dale & Diane Olson made several book purchases on a recent trip to San Antonio and suggested that members might want to have the name and address of the antiquarian bookshop they visited, as follows:

Antiquarian Book Mart (& Antiquarian Book Mart Annex)

3127 Broadway

San Antonio, TX 78209

Tel.: 210)828-7433

Contacts: Kevin Kellel and Dr. Frank Kellel, Jr.

## RADIO TAPES

FVP Dave Roberts reported he had recorded two more Laffite "historical vignettes", one entitled "The Descendants of Jean Laffite," of which he played for members who responded with applause. Dale Olson also suggested that The LS might want to form an editorial committee to review the vignettes for consistency in format and tone before they are aired over the radio. A suggestion was also offered to publish in *The Chronicles* a request of members for ideas, topics, as well as entire write-ups for radio tape material.

## PRIVATEER SEAL

Reginald Wilson stated that Robert Schaadt, Director of the Sam Houston Regional Library, has requested a copy of Laffite's privateer seal, along with the legend, to mount in an area near the display case containing the original Journal of Jean Laffite.

## PRESENTATIONS ON RESEARCH

Reginald Wilson reported on several subjects of research interests, as follows:

### 1) Aaron Burr's Daughter, A Corsair's Captive?

Reginald Wilson reported that Aaron Burr's daughter, Theodosia, wife of Joseph L. Alston, Governor of South Carolina, was possibly on a ship ("The Patriot") captured by Laffite's men. Charles Nathan Tilton may also have been on the ship, although this information was never claimed by him or his descendants. Reginald showed to members a small picture of Annie Barber Tilton, 1817-1883, wife of Charles Tilton - a photographic enlargement made available by Member-at-Large Pam Keyes.

## 2) Culp Cemetery Research

Reginald stated that his cousin Paul Gardiner is still in the process of researching the Culp Cemetery for the location of Jean Laffite's grave. He is attempting to find individuals who are old enough to remember the history of the local residents and the cemetery. Reginald said he hopes to provide information for a follow-up article of one that appeared in a previous issue of The Chronicles, "A Visit to Laffite's Grave." Mr. Gardiner's report and photos will be forwarded to the Editor of Publications for the next issue.

## 3) "Registry of Deliberations"

Continuing his presentation, Reginald spoke about a document known as the "Registry of Deliberations," which contained the rules and regulations, "or constitution" written by the founders of the Galveston commune. The original document in French and unsigned by Jean Laffite is housed in the Fort Worth Archive. Reginald said he would place a copy of the original document along with an English translation in the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center at Liberty, and in The Laffite Society Archives.

## 4) Taped Telephone Conversation with Jane Surratt

Reginald provided the Secretary with a typescript of his taped telephone conversation with Jane Surratt, wife of John Surratt who is the nephew of Lacey Laffite, wife of John Andrychene Laffite. Jane Surratt stated she and her husband had always believed that John A. Laffite's great-grandfather was Jean Laffite, as he always claimed, because of the possessions that had come down to him: "All he could talk about was his ancestor," Jane said. Further, although Jane's husband John said he never saw any trunks in John A.'s house that burned in 1959, Jane Surratt did say that they knew that a third trunk had been "thrown out of the window" during the fire, which John A. had widely claimed had occurred, this trunk said to have contained the original Journal of Jean Laffite. Of further interest, Jane Surratt claims to have a ledger "with some writing in it" which she says belonged to Jean Laffite's family. Reginald says he inquired if she would consider sending the ledger to him to look at, assuring her that it would be safely returned in due course. The question remains, is this ledger an original document with hand writing by Laffite, or a forgery by the hand of John A.?

## MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the August General Meeting was adjourned (time not recorded).

(Notes of Minutes submitted by Jeff Modzelewski; final version of Minutes prepared by D. McDonald Karilanic, Secretary, The Laffite Society) \dmk

MINUTES  
September 8, 1998  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
General Meeting  
The Eiband Gallery  
2201 Post Office  
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

file

BOARD PRESENT: President, Kathy Modzelewski; SVP, Judy Dolfi; TVP Jim Nonus; Rec./Corresp. Sec'ty, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Dir., George Najarian; Historian, Bernadette Foley

BOARD ABSENT: FVP Dave Roberts; Archivist, Don Marler; Coor./Res., Wil Zapalac; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Jean L. Epperson; Bill Foley; Jeanette Haydel; Don Peak; Norman & Margie Sachnik; Richard Rasche; Nell & Bowen Whittington; A.M. Wilcox; Reginald & Betty Wilson;

GUEST: Judy Waggner

#### CALL TO ORDER

The President called the General Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### MINUTES

Minutes of the General Meeting of August 11 were approved as read. The Secretary thanked Jeff Modzelewski and Richard Rasche for having taken notes on the Minutes for the meetings of July and August in her absence.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski, gave the balance in the treasury as \$1,412.33. Jeff stated that The LS's finances were in good shape, one factor being that he was able to cut costs on production of THE CHRONICLES. The average balance for '97 was \$850.00; for '98, \$1,300-1,400.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

TVP Jim Nonus mentioned the upcoming premiere showing on Sept. 27 of The Pirate Island of Jean Laffite, a new film by C. Grant Mitchell at the Pier 21 theatre, together with a "Sunset Soirée" dockside at Willie G.'s Restaurant,

benefitting the tall ship Elissa.

Jim also suggested that members might want to think about another trip to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center at Liberty. Plans are also in the making by Robert & Kathleen Vogel for a special event in Natchitoches, LA in the spring of '99.

## THE CHRONICLES

Editor-of-Publications Jeff Modzelewski said that the Jan.-June, '98 issue of The Laffite Society Chronicles will be out in October. Jeff also stated that he now has a scanner for making copies of photographic materials to include in THE CHRONICLES.

## SPEAKING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Ex-Officio Laffite Society President R. Dale Olson will give a talk on Saccarapa City, an early Galveston community on the east end of Galveston, to The East End Historical Association, Oct. 1, 1998, at 7:40 p.m., 1501 Post Office St., Galveston. Dale presented this information to The Laffite Society at the July, '98 meeting.
- 2) Author-Archeologist & Laffite researcher Robert C. Vogel will speak at The LS's November meeting on the "cultural ecology" of Galveston Island in 1816-1826.

## NEW TRANSLATION OF THE JOURNAL

Reginald Wilson received a letter from French language scholar and linguist Gene Marshall of McNeese University, Dept. Of Languages, Lake Charles, LA. Mr. Marshall reported on his findings following his recent translation of The Journal of Jean Laffite: The Privateer-Patriot's Own Story which was requested by The LS and facilitated through the assistance of Prof. Thomas Watson of Lake Charles.

Some comments in the letter included the following:

- 1) Handwriting in The Journal is the same throughout.
- 2) Different writing pens were used at certain points.
- 3) The author of The Journal was probably a speaker of French, Spanish & English, with the primary language being French.
- 4) Style of French language used is that of the pre-1850 era.

## THOMAS BEALE CIPHER REPORT

The Secretary reported that in June, '98, The LS received a "second installment" for the official LS archive file of information from Richard B. Smith and The Company of West Yorkshire, England on their findings resulting from their on-

going deciphering efforts of the Thomas Beale Codex which dates from 1820. The carefully prepared and detailed "report" included information on the history of the Knights Templar Order in which Smith & Company allege that Jean Laffite, alias Thomas J. Beale, was a member and held the title of Prieuré de Sion (Prior of Zion). A photocopy was included of an article dating from the 1980s describing the latest Prieuré de Sion title holder in France. The Secretary stated that Richard Smith, the principle decoder of the cipher, said that upon completion of his work it is the intention of his group to travel to the United States to present his findings to the U.S. Government, at which time he will apply for licenses to excavate on a site presently owned by the U.S. Govt. Smith said that map coordinates and other identifying information for the approximate site of an alleged vast amount of treasure described in the codex are forthcoming from his work in progress. According to the Secretary, it is Smith's belief that the results of his findings will set right once and for all the correct history of the fate of Jean and Pierre Laffite whom he believes met their deaths in 1823-24. Mr. Smith also stated that he may try and arrange a visit to Galveston during his travel to the U.S. to present his findings to The LS.

#### PHOTOS ON CULP CEMETERY

Reginald Wilson showed the photos taken by his cousin Paul Gardiner in the general vicinity of the Culp Cemetery in Alton, Illinois. Also available to see was a Xeroxed copy of a small hand-drawn map showing the possible location of the cemetery.

#### EROS SATELLITE PHOTOS OF CULP CEMETERY

Member Norman Sachnik has offered to write to request information on obtaining satellite photos of the site in Alton, Il. said to be the Culp Cemetery where Jean Laffite may be buried. The specific focus of such a search would be to try to identify traces of iron ornamentation buried in the soil, the remnants of a railing encircling the grave site, described by John A. Laffite, alleged great-grandson of Jean Laffite.

#### LAFFITE PRIVATEER SEAL

Reginald Wilson presented a copy in color of the Jean Laffite Privateer Seal with Jean Laffite's signature to the Editor-of-Publications for inclusion in The LS CHRONICLES. Dr. Wilson has generously offered to underwrite a portion of the cost of printing and publication in color of this unique document for the forthcoming Oct. issue of THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES.

#### MISC. DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

Reginald Wilson provided for members' viewing Xeroxed copies of several

documents of interest:

- 1) "The Galveston Project, Registry of Deliberations, Made at Galveston, April 15, 1817," together with a copy of the original in French.
- 2) "United States District Court - U.S. vs Certain Goods Taken at Barataria, filed October 22, 1814" - with a signature. (This is a list of goods taken by Ross-Patterson October, 1814.)
- 3) A letter of pardon for the Baratarians dated Feb. 6, 1815, from President James Madison.
- 4) Laffite's letter to Graham, April 26, 1818, acknowledging his letter requesting that he (Laffite) be apprised of President Monroe's authorization to question him.

### BOOK DONATION BY JEAN L. EPPERSON

Jean Epperson gave to the LS archive a copy of a spiral-bound book prepared under the auspices of the Louisiana Student Teachers, Jean Laffite and the Baratarians: A Resource Unit, by Martin Cortez, 1993.

### OTHER ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVE

The Secretary reported she had added to the LS archive the following documents translated under her hand:

- 1) A set of "signaling directions" for ships entering the waters of Galveston during the Laffie era. (French to Eng.)
- 2) Order for Cargo Permit (French to Eng.)
- 3) Correspondence from the Cuban Archive by Pierre & Jean Laffite from Feb.,-Sept., 1817 relating to their activities as Spanish agents during occupation of Galveston Island. (Spanish to Eng.)

### REFRESHMENTS

Thanks were offered to members Judy Dolfi and Margie Sachnik for delicious refreshments provided, including a hot casserole of meatballs by MargieS. Members were reminded to donate to the refreshment fund at each meeting so that members can continue to enjoy this amenity.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the General Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Secretary, The Laffite Society

File

MINUTES  
GENERAL MEETING  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
October 13, 1998j  
THE EIBAND'S GALLERY  
2201 Post Office  
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

**BOARD PRESENT:** President, Kathy Modzelewski; First Vice-President, Dave Roberts; Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski; Editor-of-Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director, George Najarian; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

**BOARD ABSENT:** Second Vice-President, July Dolfi; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Rec./Corres. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Archivist, Don Marler; Coordinator of Research, Wil Zapalac

**MEMBERS AT LARGE:** Jean L. Epperson; Bill Foley; Jeanette Haydel; R. Dale Olson; Richard Rasche; Ginny Roberts; Marcia and Art Wilcox; Reginald and Betty Wilson; Don Wood

**GUESTS:** Robert Hinkle; Norma Jean Nelson; Cheryl Ward

**CALL TO ORDER**

The President called the meeting to order.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the September 8<sup>th</sup> General Meeting were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Jeff Modzelewski reported a balance of \$1,000 in The Laffite Society account, following payment of printing costs for the latest issue of THE CHRONICLES.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

- 1) According to Diane and Dale Olson, plans are under way for a trip to the Yucatan in mid-January, '99. So far signed up to go are Members-at-Large Robert and Kathleen Vogel of Minnesota and possibly Robert Looper of Golden Meadow, Louisiana.
- 2) Robert Vogel will discuss plans for the Nachitoches, LA. special event in the Spring of '99 at The Laffite Society's November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**THE CHRONICLES**

Editor of Publications Jeff Modzelewski distributed to members present copies of the January-June, '98 issue of THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES. Jeff also acknowledged with thanks and appreciation Dr. Reginald Wilson's contribution in underwriting costs of the

color printing of the Laffite Privateer Seal included in this issue.

#### SPEAKER FOR THE NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

Archeologist, Laffite researcher and author Robert C. Vogel will give a talk on “Cultural Ecology of Galveston Island, 1816-1821.”

#### THE JOURNAL OF LAFFITE ON CD-ROM

A proposal has been made by a group in Austin to scan THE JOURNAL OF JEAN LAFFITE; THE PRIVATEER-PATRIOT’S OWN STORY, along with the copybooks in the collection at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, Texas, for placement on a CD-ROM.

#### JOHN AND JANE SERRAT (NEPHEW OF LACEY LAFFITE)

Reginald Wilson mentioned that he has had additional conversations with Jane Serrat who promised to send him a Laffite “ledger” to look at.

#### CULP CEMETERY SEARCH (CONTINUED)

Reginald Wilson suggested that use of a metal detector might turn up pieces of the iron railing said to have been on or near the alleged grave of Jean Laffite in the Culp Cemetery near Alton, Illinois.

According to Dr. Wilson, Member-at-Large and former Editor of The Laffite Study Group Newsletter Pam Keyes and her husband are making a trip to St. Louis and will inspect the Culp Cemetery location while there.

#### CARGO LISTS ON LAFFITE’S SHIPS

Dr. Wilson mentioned that his research indicates that in the cargo manifests of Laffite’s ships there was no mention of slaves or money taken.

#### SPECIAL SPEAKER

Ginny Brown, local speaker on popular history subjects, gave a talk on Galveston Island and Laffite lore. She mentioned a little known reference to one possible location for Laffite’s Maison Rouge as being on a site that is present-day Havre Lafitte.

#### BOARD MEETING

President Kathy called for a Board Meeting to be held November 10 at 5:00 p.m., prior to the General Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the General Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
The Laffite Society

(Notes for Minutes of Oct. 13 meeting taken by Jeff Modzelewski in the absence of Secretary.)

Subj: Minutes and Attendance of Laffite Meeting of Tuesday, 10/13/98  
Date: 98-10-16 00:18:01 EDT  
From: modz@phoenix.net (Modzelewski, Jeff & Kathy)  
To: alphatrons@AOL.com (McDonald Karilanovic, Dorothy)

Hi Dorothy,

Welcome back from CT - hope things went well and you and your mother returned safely to TX.

My minutes are again scanty, for which I again apologize, but I believe there is enough of a kernel here for you to work with.

Attendees:

Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski  
Nell and Bowen (?) Whittington (I think they are friends of the Wilsons - Kathy has not entered them into the database yet, and his first name was written in cursive and hard to read - you might call her or e-mail Doc to verify)  
Jean Epperson  
Jeanette Haydel and Don Wood  
Cheryl Ward  
Norma Jean Nelson  
Dick Rasche  
Reginald and Betty Wilson  
Marcia and Art Wilcox  
Robert Hinkle  
Bill and Bernadette Foley  
George Najarian  
Dave and Ginny Roberts  
Dale and Diane Olson

✓ Jeff gave Treasurer's Report - about \$1,000 in account after paying Speedy's for latest "Chronicles."

✓ Jeff distributed "Chronicles," thanked Doc Wilson for subsidizing color privateer seal.

Kathy called for a Board meeting at 5:00 PM before the November meeting on 11/10/98.

✓ Vogel will speak at that meeting.

✓ Vogel will also discuss plans for special-event trip to Natchitoches.

✓ Yucatan trip a "go" for at least Vogels and Olsons - anyone else welcome to go. -

✓ A group in Austin would like to scan the Laffite Journal and copybooks onto a CD-Rom.

✓ Doc Wilson talked again of Jane and John Serrat (John the nephew of Lacey Laffite) - Doc has had additional conversations with Jane, who promised to send him a Laffite "ledger" to look at.

Pam Keyes and her husband were leaving for a trip to St. Louis and the

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Culp Cemetery on Wed., 10/14/98. Doc said he wished she had a metal detector with her, so they could search a bit for the iron railing, or the ornaments that were possibly on it, that supposedly surrounded Laffite's grave and perhaps have gotten buried over the years. ✓

[I have the following comment written down, but don't know what other thread of conversation surrounded it.] Doc mentioned that cargoes on Laffite's ships manifested no slaves nor money.

Main speaker was Jenny (Ginny?) Brown, who Dave got to speak for us (he can fill you in more - I had never met her, but understand she is on several Boards locally and speaks quite often to groups). She basically just recounted (for about fifteen or twenty minutes or so) what she had learned of Laffite through our Society. [The only thing that I remembered thinking was new and really struck me as different was that she spoke of Laffite's Maison Rouge having been located about the spot of present-day Havre Laffite.]

Jeff

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----- Headers -----

Return-Path: <modz@phoenix.net>

Received: from relay30.mx.aol.com (relay30.mail.aol.com [172.31.109.30]) by air09.mail.aol.com (v50.19) with SMTP; Fri, 16 Oct 1998 00:18:01 -0400

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Thu, 15 Oct 1998 23:55:51 -0400 (EDT)

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Message-ID: <3626C348.4CC1B09E@phoenix.net>

Date: Thu, 15 Oct 1998 22:53:48 -0500

From: "Modzelewski, Jeff & Kathy" <modz@phoenix.net>

X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.05 [en] (Win95; I)

MIME-Version: 1.0

To: "McDonald Karilanovic, Dorothy" <alpatrons@AOL.com>

Subject: Minutes and Attendance of Laffite Meeting of Tuesday, 10/13/98

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

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MINUTES  
GENERAL MEETING  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
November 10, 1998  
The Eiband Gallery  
2201 Post Office  
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

BOARD PRESENT: Kathy Modzelewski, President; First Vice-President, Dave Roberts; Second Vice-President, Judy Dolfi; Rec./Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer/Editor-of-Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director, George Najarian; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Archivist, Don Marler

BOARD ABSENT: Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Coordinator of Research, Wil Zapalac; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Jean L. Epperson, Kileen & Robert Prather; Ginny Roberts; Sybil Marler; Arthur & Marcia Wilcox; Louise Marten; Jeanette & Don Ward; Richard Rasche; John E. Hunger & Susan Baker Olsen; Norma Jean Nelson; Donald Peake; Robert Hinkle; Margie & Norman Sachnik; Nell & Bowen Whittington; Bill Foley; Joe Dolfi; Reginald and Betty Wilson; Walter Modzelewski; Robert C. Vogel

GUESTS: Ivan J. Arceneaux; Brenda Silverstein; Rita Wichlep

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

"CULTURAL ECOLOGY OF GALVESTON, 1816-1821"  
by  
ROBERT C. VOGEL

First Vice-President Dave Roberts introduced the special lecturer, Robert C. Vogel, archeologist, author and Laffite researcher.

Against a descriptive background of revolutionary & Royalist forces all contending for control of the strategic barrier island site of Galveston, the focus of Mr. Vogel's talk was a summary of his research, thought and efforts to portray a true picture of the continual struggle by the Laffites and their associates to govern and maintain a harsh material existence for members of the Galveston commune of 1817-1821 where a polyglot population of several hundred lived in poorly constructed palm-thatched huts, often suffering from lack of nourishing food, clean water, and from the effects of disease.

The topic of tonight's talk was based on a presentation Mr. Vogel had given in Pensacola, FL, and is intended for publication.

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#### CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order.

#### MINUTES

The Minutes of October 13 were approved as read.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jeff Modzelewski reported a balance in The Laffite Society account of \$1,270.00, less mailing costs for THE CHRONICLES of about \$150.00.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

A tentative date for the special event trip to Natchitoches, LA is March 19-21, 1999.

The Society's Holiday Party is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12. A pot-luck buffet is planned, to be hosted and coordinated by Second Vice-President Judy Dolfi..

Robert Vogel discussed his plans for his upcoming trip to the Yucatan this coming January for the interest of members who might want to join him and his wife, Kathleen, in following in the footsteps of the Laffites..

#### SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski presented a proposal for a "Speakers' Bureau" with an outline of suggested topics. Four to five volunteers were called for to submit a text to cover a speaking time of about 35-40 minutes, to be edited by Jeff, as Editor-of Publications, then presented to the Board for final approval. Any text or publication may be used as the source of a given topic; for example, as suggested by Jeff, the book Jean Laffite: Prince of Pirates, by Jack C. Ramsay, Jr.

#### CUBAN ARCHIVE CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary reported she will submit to the Editor for eventual publication in THE CHRONICLES four letters written by Pierre & Jean Laffite in 1817 which she had translated from Spanish, obtained from a copy of a text of documents originally housed in the Cuban National Archives. According to Robert C. Vogel, author and Laffite researcher, The Cuban material is more comprehensive than the documents filed in the Archivo de Indias in Seville; it is ... closer to the original sources of the correspondence and reports (the Spanish consuls in New Orleans, the captain-generals in Havana, and the officials in Mexico) and contains some material that was never copied into other archives." The letters of August 16, 1817 and September 1, 1817, are of special note, according to Robert Vogel.

#### BEALE CIPHERS

The Secretary stated she had received a faxed letter from ~~Richard B. Smith~~ of THE COMPANY, West Yorkshire, Eng., who is in the process of deciphering the ~~Thomas Beale~~

ciphers reported to have information regarding the burial site of a large treasure. According to Mr. Smith, it is his belief, based on information he continues to retrieve from the ciphers, that Thomas Beale may have been an alias of Jean Laffite. In a short, faxed communication from Mr. Smith Sept. 23, 1998, he mentioned that he had received "a code readout [giving] the name of Jean's son." In her reply to Mr. Smith of Sept. 29, the Secretary reported she had mentioned the names of "Jules" and "Glenn" as the names of Jean's sons, and had asked Mr. Smith what was the name he had retrieved from his decoding efforts. His reply on Oct. 31, was the following: "Re. Jean's son's name: Sorry, but at this moment in time still collating further data." In this letter, Mr. Smith gave information on book title he believes that members of The LS might want to acquire, information as follows:

TITLE: THE BEALE TREASURE: "NEW" HISTORY OF A MYSTERY

Auth.: Peter Viemeister, published by Hamilton's, P.O. Box 932, 155 W. Main St.,  
Bedford, VA, 24523. Tel.: 540)586-5592; Fax.: 540)586-6235. Price: \$22.50.

Of further note in Mr. Smith's fax of Oct. 31, he states:

"Having read the above book, there is a positive line of connection between 'Beale Senior/Junior, and Jean, Pierre, and Dominique. Beale Senior's plantation perfect hide-out for the Laffites. . Beale Junior too young to lead so-called hunting trip in the 1820s (approx. 19 yrs. Old). However, impossible for 'Jean' to impersonate junior; but able to impersonate father."

As has been mentioned previously, Mr. Smith has stated that he intends to make the finished results of his project known to the U.S. Govt., at which time he will also apply for licenses to excavate. As stated previously, if possible, it is his intention to also make a trip to Galveston at the time of his visit to the U.S. to present his findings to The Laffite Society..

#### JOHN DUCOIGNE

The Secretary mentioned she had received an inquiry from Mrs. Fred Brown of Dallas, Texas concerning genealogical information on an associate of Jean Laffite, John Ducoigne. With her letter, Mrs. Brown included copies of depositions made by John Ducoigne of his account of the governance of the Laffite commune on Galveston Island. These papers will be placed in The Laffite Society archive at The Eiband Gallery

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks were extended to Members-at-Large Betty Wilson, Jean L. Epperson, and Nell Whittington for providing the evening's refreshments.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the General Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

MINUTES  
BOARD MEETING  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
November 10, 1998  
The Eiband Gallery  
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BOARD PRESENT: President, Kathy Modzelewski; First Vice-President, Dave Roberts; Second Vice-President, July Dolfi; Rec./Corresp. Sect'y, Dorothy McD. Karilanic; Treasurer/Editor-of-Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Archivist, Don Marler; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Press Director, George Najarian

BOARD ABSENT: Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Coordinator-of-Research, Wil Zapalac; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Jean L. Epperson; Robert C. Vogel

LL TO ORDER

The President called the Board Meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting of July 22 were approved as read.

SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Editor-of-Publications Jeff Modzelewski presented an outline of topics and his suggestions for formation of a Speakers' Bureau to consist of four or five volunteers who would prepare a text for a talk to last 35-40 minutes. The text would be edited by the Editor-of-Publications and then presented to the Board for approval prior to presentation at community events.

Decision made to discuss plans for the Speakers' Bureau at this date's General Meeting.

LAFFITE PRIMER

The President stated that information gleaned from the Speakers' Bureau texts could be used as a source to draw on for entries in the preparation of the Laffite Society Primer.

ARTIFACTS FROM '96 EXCAVATION

Suggestion made to contact Becki Hall to inquire on status of culling and cleaning of some of the artifacts retrieved from the '96 excavation at the Maison Rouge site.

Archeologist Robert C. Vogel suggested that the state archeological society be contacted for instruction as to how best to handle and conserve the artifacts, meanwhile to wash and repack them carefully.

#### RADIO TALKS

No report available.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

The Laffite Society Holiday Social planned for Saturday, December 12, will be a "pot luck" buffet. Second Vice-President July Dolfi will be hostess and coordinator of the event.

#### ARCHIVES

Laffite Society archivist Don Marler reported that he has purchased supplies to set up the Laffite Society Archives. Don will call for volunteers to assist with this project in the new year.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the Board Meeting this date adjourned at 6:00 p.m. to convene the General Meeting.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

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