



# The Laffite Society Chronicles

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## THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES

### THE LAFFITE CONNECTION

JIM NONUS

**T**he Laffite Connection...perhaps a good title for a film script, or a novel. But, for the Laffite Society, simply a mode of operation. In fact, this is precisely how the Laffite Society began, and has managed to grow, making connections, or networking, from the very beginning.

I had, for many years, been enamored of the legend of Laffite. Since early childhood, my mother told me about the privateer and we

*This drawing of Jean Laffite, by Jay Van Everen, represents a stylized artist's conception of the famous privateer. Although no claims of authenticity have been made, this image is used as the frontispiece of Jean Laffite by Mitchell Charnley.*

*Jay Van Everen was a book and magazine illustrator active in New York. He was listed in Who Was Who in American Art (1985) as residing at 509 East 77th. Street in New York in the 1920's.*

*Scrutiny of the illustration suggests the possibility that Van Everen was influenced by the writing of Bollaert (1851) who reported that Jean wore a " ... species of green uniform", with an " ... otter skin cap".*



Jean Laffite  
Jay Van Everen

would drive by the old Hendricks Castle on Water Street (or Avenue A) in Galveston as she shared what she knew about Jean Laffite. For many years I have driven by the site just to stop, stare, and wonder. It always gave me a great feeling!

Later in life I began searching for books about the famous Laffites in New Orleans, not knowing that Rosenberg Library in Galveston would be such a rich source of information on my childhood hero.

Working in Houston, many of my friends and co-workers were aware of my interest in the Terror of the Gulf. This was, incidentally, the title of the first book I ever encountered on Jean Laffite.

Years later, my friend Brenda Gilbert shared an article she had read in Architectural Digest by Roger Kennedy concerning Bartholemy Lafon, an associate of the Laffites. Some months later I moved to Galveston and became acquainted with Louise Nichols of Yesterday's Books. Telling her of my interest in collecting books on Laffite, Louise mentioned there were other collectors interested in the same material, but professionally she was not at liberty to provide their names without permission. I decided to share a copy of my latest find, the article by Kennedy, with whoever it was who had this similar interest.

For the first time I no longer felt alone in my endeavor and was very curious about meeting others with whom I might share information. Louise was instrumental in the network starting to form, as Brenda and my mother had been earlier.

The seed information passed to me in childhood was starting to grow, now searching for connections, and being fed and perpetuated by a host of others. The next connection, through Louise, was Dale Olson, and Diane, his wife. Now, the Laffite connection began to take on the characteristics of a road map, with connections being made much more rapidly.

At the center of this new information network is an energy connecting people with one another, sharing what we know about a man who set fire to his home and disappeared from the pages of history 175 years ago!

I looked as deep into Dale as he did me to learn why we shared this pursuit of Laffite. With no full answer to the question, the network continued to expand to others, most with outstanding ability to connect. Bruce and Mary Roberts, along with Randy Pace, were among the first to meet at the Olson's home on Sealy in Galveston, as Dale, Diane, and I worked to develop the organization we know today.

Along with Randy soon came Dorothy McDonald Karilanic, Lou MacBeth, Bill and Bernadette Foley, Kurt Voss, Jim and Margaret Earthman, a simpatico group of Laffitians with new energy and a strong interest in unearthing a piece of history about a man who networked not only in Galveston and New Orleans, but also had strong connections with the Spanish, French, Mexicans, Americans, and Argentinians. His name had been linked with many, and he proved to have had curious dealings with governors, presidents, generals, emperors, priests, dictators, pirates, landowners, privateers, thieves, and merchants.

The rich Laffite history in the Gulf of Mexico has now connected us with people like Don and Sybil Marler, Jean Epperson, Penny Clarke, Darlene Mott, Jonathan Gerland, and Robert Schaad and, more recently, Betty and Dr. Reginald Wilson. Dale's phone calls connected us with Bob Looper of Golden Meadow, Louisiana. Bob Looper connected us with Jean and Pat Landry of Grand Isle. Jean and Pat connected us with John Dameier on Grande Terre.

We became connected with Sally and Bill Reeves and Wanda Lee Dicky in New Orleans, and various booksellers and librarians, and perhaps at least one bartender at the Blacksmith Shop!

All of these people bring energy and life to a network of information about the past. And what an incredible amount of information has been generated! Many of our members actively collect books and articles on Laffite; guest speakers at the monthly meeting of The Laffite Society have shared many accounts about the Laffites and their contemporaries, some with a rich ancestry dating back to the actual time of Laffite; we have even had a few donations of original documents, articles, and books donated to the Society!

I foresee this input of data from all points in the network creating enough energy and interest in the Laffite era to bring back into focus a specific time in history so rich in lore to view a man's life and activities without passing judgement; to therefore be able to comprehend a much larger picture of history. How did Laffite interact with others and with whom did he personally network? Obviously, with many people of every description, much the way it is today.

SPECIAL EVENT REPORT

## GRAND ISLE, GRANDE TERRE, NEW ORLEANS

MAY 18 - 21, 1995

What is believed to have been the first visit by an organized group of Laffite connoisseurs to Grande Terre began Thursday, 18 May, 1995. Sixteen members and guests of The Laffite Society arrived at Grand Isle late Thursday afternoon from Galveston, Dayton, Woodville, Texas, and New Orleans. Each participant was provided a specially produced 22 page brochure which included a complete itinerary, list of antiquarian bookstores in New Orleans, and a reprint of Southern Barataria in the Era of Jean Laffite, by Frederick J. Stielow.

Following a wine and cheese party at the Sand Dollar Motel, the group adjourned to Cigar's Cajun Cuisine restaurant on Grand Isle. Dinner, as well as all other arrangements on Grand Isle and Grande Terre, was arranged by Jean and Pat Landry of Grand Isle. Pat is a seventh generation Grand Islander.

Mayor Andy Valence presented the Laffite Society with a key to the city, and Grand Isle cloisonne lapel pins. Members enjoyed several speakers throughout the evening. Jean Landry introduced LaVita Cheramie, owner of the restaurant, who provided members with a history of her family's background on Grand Isle. Mayor Valence expressed his appreciation for the visit by The Society, and member Bob Looper, of nearby Golden Meadow, discussed Grand Isle and neighboring Chênrière Caminada. Pat Landry recounted his life long experiences on Grande Terre and gave a summary of what members might expect on their tour the next day at Fort Livingston. In Pat's youth, his Boy Scout troupe actually held a lease to Grande Terre and used Fort Livingston as a headquarters.



*"Mayor Andy Valence, right, presents a key to the city of Grand Isle, Louisiana, to Laffite Society President R. Dale Olson" at welcoming dinner the evening prior to departure for Grande Terre".*

President Dale Olson gave a short synopsis of Laffite's occupancy of Grande Terre and presented Mayor Valence with a Proclamation to the citizens of Grand Isle from Mayor Barbara Crews and the City Council of Galveston. A copy of the proclamation is printed in this issue.

Mayor Valence presented each member with a "Mayor's card", which he indicated should be presented to any peace officer should the necessity arise. The Mayor indicated that the card would entitle the bearer to the benefit of a "cell with a view". Ironically, Jim and Margaret Earthman were indeed stopped by a Grand Isle officer on their return to the Motel following dinner. The fact that Jim was driving only "35 mph in a 45 mph" zone had little effect on the officer, and the Mayor's card scant more! Upon mention of The Laffite Society, however, all changed. The officer was a descendant of Louis Chighizola, "Nez Coupe", a revered and famous former Grand Isle resident



and close ally with Laffite. All parted company amicably.

The Society was scheduled to depart, via Coast Guard vessels, for Grande Terre at 9:00



*"Robert Looper, of Golden Meadow, Louisiana, provided members with a history of the Grand Isle and Cheniere Camiada area".*

a.m., Friday morning, but a roll of thunder, and streaks of lightning awoke most at 5:40 a.m., bringing the potential of severe disappointment. All met at Sarah's restaurant for breakfast and awaited the movement of the bad weather. The front, which brought 2.95 inches of rain in a very short period, fortunately moved through rather rapidly. A walking tour, hosted by Jean Landry, of old Grand Isle homes, was rearranged so that the Grande Terre departure was delayed until 10:30.

The United States Coast Guard provided transportation to Grande Terre, shuttling members from a larger boat to a smaller one which could more easily dock at Grande Terre. All sixteen participants followed John Dameier, Marine Fisheries Project Coordinator for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, on a tour of Grande Terre.

This island, so prominent in all Laffite lore, did not fail to provoke exceptionally strong visions and memories of the Baratarians of nearly two centuries ago. That the island has never been developed renders its history more believable. The condition of the 1841 Ft. Livingston

was a pleasant surprise, in that most members expected simply a "mound of bricks". Much of the Fort is quite intact, and immensely impressive. The parade grounds, located within the walls of the fort, are allegedly the site of the Laffite commune.

According to Jean Landry, many artifacts have been discovered at the East end of the island, an area which the Society unfortunately did not visit. John Dameier displayed several photographs he had taken of artifacts taken from the area, including Spanish pottery shards and two broken wine bottles. As one would expect, the two bottles were both Grand Cru Classe wines, one from Chateau Margaux and the other appropriately, Chateau Laffite!

Removal of objects from Grande Terre is discouraged, if not actually illegal, and metal detectors are most assuredly forbidden.

Due to the recent rainfall, Grande Terre was indeed soggy! The group proceeded from the Fisheries and Wildlife station West to Fort Livingston, then rounded the western end of Grande Terre. After walking the beach back to about the midpoint of the island, members traversed the narrow island, through calf-deep water, back to the station. After a short drying out period, John returned all to Grand Isle via a Wildlife and Fisheries launch.

Following a well earned lunch at the Sand Dollar, members visited one of the old cemeteries on Grand Isle, where Louis Chighizola, Jr., is buried. The location of the "old Rigaud" cemetery, in which the original Louis Chighizola, "Nez Coupe" is buried is uncertain. Jean Landry, who volunteers her time assisting older residents of the Island, has promised to speak with them concerning the location of the Rigaud Cemetery. Unfortunately, it may now be under an area which has been filled.

Most members departed Grand Isle about 3:00 p.m. for the two hour drive to New Orleans. A wine and cheese party greeted mem-

bers upon arrival at the Hotel St. Pierre in the Vieux Carre.

A serendipitous occurrence developed when Wanda Lee Dicky, a Park Ranger with the Jean Lafitte [sic] National Historical Park and Preserve in the French Quarter of New Orleans, called one week prior to the trip asking for details. Not only did Wanda join us for the Grand Isle-Grande Terre portion of the trip, she led the group on a Saturday morning tour of French Quarter locales associated with the Laffites. Saturday had originally been left open for members to visit sites of their own choosing. Everyone in attendance, however, joined Wanda Lee and remained for the entire tour!

Most members visited antique shops, and antiquarian bookstores during the afternoon. Bookstore owners had been notified of the upcoming visit by The Society and most had their Laffite material readily available. A representative list of some of the books purchased by members is to be found in the "Current News" section of this issue of the Chronicles.

Saturday evening found the Society together at dinner at the Pelican Club in the Quarter.

No activities were planned for Sunday, and most members reluctantly drove away from the Crescent City filled with thoughts, questions, and a few answers concerning the enigmatic Laffite.

### Participants:

The following members and guests participated in the Special Event to Grand Isle, Grande Terre, and New Orleans 18 May through 21 May 1995.

### Participants cont.

Wanda Lee Dicky .....	New Orleans, Louisiana
Joe Dolfi .....	Tiki Island, Texas
Judy Dolfi .....	Tiki Island, Texas
James B. Earthman .....	Galveston, Texas
Margaret Earthman .....	Galveston, Texas
Bernadette Foley .....	Galveston, Texas
Bill Foley .....	Galveston, Texas
Jean Landry .....	Grand Isle, Louisiana
Pat Landry .....	Grand Isle, Louisiana
Robert Looper .....	Golden Meadow, Louisiana
Don Marler .....	Woodville, Texas
Sybil Marler .....	Woodville, Texas
Jim Nonus .....	Galveston, Texas
R. Dale Olson .....	Galveston, Texas; Fullerton, Ca.
Diane Olson .....	Galveston, Texas; Fullerton, Ca.
Randy Pace .....	Galveston, Texas
Betty Wilson .....	Dayton, Texas
Dr. Reginald Wilson .....	Dayton, Texas
Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic .....	Galveston, Texas



# PROCLAMATION

We, the Mayor and City Council, by virtue of our authority vested by the City of Galveston, Texas, do hereby send greetings on this day of

May 18, 1995

to

**GRAND ISLE, LOUISIANA**

from the City of Galveston, and

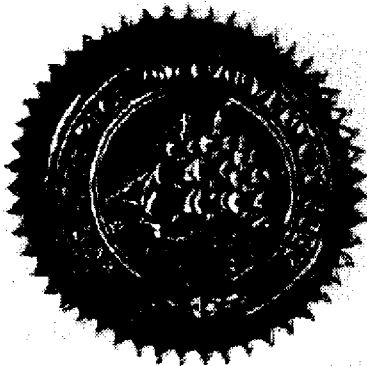
WHEREAS, the Cities of Grand Isle, Louisiana and Galveston Island, Texas share a common historical bond, both having been closely associated with the activities of Jean Lafitte in the early 19th Century, and

WHEREAS, the Cities of Grand Isle and Galveston Island both share a deep appreciation of history and the preservation of historical structures on their respective Islands, and

WHEREAS, the Cities of Grand Isle and Galveston Island both boast of an abundance of multi-generation families who preserve the historic integrity of their respective cities, and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Barbara Crews, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor do hereby express appreciation for the courtesy extended to The Lafitte Society on its first visit to Grand Isle and Grand Terre.

In testimony whereof, witness my hand and the Seal of the City of Galveston, this the 18th day of May, A.D. 1995.



Barbara K. Crews  
Mayor

Attest:

Anna Lee  
City Secretary

# GRAND ISLE, GRANDE TERRE, NEW ORLEANS



*"Members climb down stairs from atop Ft. Livingston to the old parade grounds".*



*"One of several boatloads of Society members leave for Grande Terre, courtesy of the United States Coast Guard".*



*"Our guides were John Dameier on Grande Terre (second from left), and Jean Landry on Grand Isle (far right), shown here with Dale Olson (left), and Diane Olson".*



*"Wanda Lee Dickey (right), of the Jean Laffite National Historical Park, gave members a personal tour of Laffite sites in the Vieux Carre".*



*"Members of The Laffite Society in front of the old Blacksmith Shop in New Orleans. From left to right, Joe Dolfi, Judy Dolfi, Dorothy McDonald Karilanic, Diane Olson, Jim Nonus (in rear), Dale Olson, Margaret Earthman, Jim Earthman, Sybil Marler, Dr. Reginald Wilson (kneeling), Don Marler, Betty Wilson, Randy Pace, Bernadette Foley, and Bill Foley".*



*"Members of The Society arrive at Grande Terre, with Ft. Livingston in the background. Left to right are, Sybil Marler, Joe Dolfi, Don Marler, Judy Dolfi, Jim Nonus, Dale Olson, Dr. Reginald Wilson, Diane Olson, Betty Wilson, Randy Pace (kneeling), Margaret Earthman, Jim Earthman, Bill Foley, Bernadette Foley, Wanda Lee Dickey, Dorothy McDonald Karilanic (kneeling)".*



# LAFFITE'S MEN

WIL ZAPALAC

Being a member of The Laffite Society (somewhere between the "t's" and "f's" of it all), and having sailed as an officer in the American Merchant Marine, and having worked a great deal with that ethnic section of the fleet known as Cajuns, I am offering my personal insight into the type of persona Jean Laffite's crews projected.

Due to publication limitations, this essay will cover a projection of Laffite's seamen only, thus leaving the officers, cooks, and others for a later date. It should be noted that not all of Laffite's manpower at sea was Cajun or any other French origin. But, noting the list of captains' names that has been offered and, knowing first hand of the modern day preference of Cajun crewing, it would suffice to say that Laffite's force at sea was largely of such heritage.

There is a saying, "The more things change, the more they stay the same". Just as one of Laffite's young deckhands may have whiled away the slow days with a squeeze-box, sitting next to a cannon, a present day young Cajun seaman would do the same with a "walk-Man" and a Playboy sitting by the towing winch.

Those who say the Germans can do nothing without music might note that the Huns may have picked this up from their French neighbors. The love of music by the Cajun seamen is deep, perhaps as it may be with others. However, there must have been nothing more soothing or inspiring that the sound of a fiddle's tune as the shot and wood flew through the sea breeze of a Laffite vessel.

My personal experience with Cajun seamen showed an "off-an on" work attitude. The "on" individuals were those who would give the term "workaholic" a bad name. The "off", how-

ever, were completely hopeless for on-board production and would often get fired from one vessel and re-hired on the next vessel of the same company. The "on" that sailed for Laffite's captains probably showed a great pride in their work, whether a powder boy or a cannoneer.

I would not think religion was a huge item with the Laffite seamen, being that superstition ruled the day. And, this continues to the present day. The average layperson would not even begin to imagine some of the modern day superstitions. One that still prevails (and very strongly) is that which holds that no intelligent man would set sail with a black sea-bag or suitcase. This is in line with the fact that some vessels carried a coffin (painted black), and that such was all that was needed aboard (be it box or bag) for ~~that~~ particular department.

An even quirkier superstition involved the riding of a broom. This is more of the Mojo thing and normally cooks can fill an interested individual in on that one, it being a rather aggressive type of home-grown curse.

One can generally understand research that showed a concern by Laffite over the alcohol consumption by his boys. With the abrupt unpredictability of a prize popping over the horizon, versus the unsteady hand of a cannoneer, or the foggy brain of a helmsman, one might indeed take note of Laffite's ploy of smuggling black powder in wine casks as a practical idea.

I offer this last conjecture on Laffite's deckhands and seamen. Before virtually trapping my company's home office for a measly trainee-mate's position (the trailing rung of the officer's ladder), I worked the deck alongside the Cajuns of contemporary times. I have observed that there is a love, a strong love, of conspiracies. Whether it be as a participant or that

of mere awareness of "goings-on", Cajuns are as readily engrossed in conspiracies as many women (and men) are with gossip. I do believe that Ian Fleming wronged the world when he did not give his main character the name of Jean de'Bon!

If one were to believe that the seamen are bad enough with this thirst for intrigue and

midnight moves, imagine walking up into a plunging vessel's wheelhouse, preparing to take the watch and wondering what little surprises are waiting with the silent, brooding Cajun captain at the wheel.

Perhaps my next essay should cover the cooks!!!

## PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

*Abstracts of General Meetings are usually prepared by the featured speaker and often contain information which may be in conflict with contrasting views or established documentation. The material contained in this section does not, therefore, necessarily reflect the view of The Laffite Society. The Laffite Society does, however, encourage discourse regarding conflicting views.*

9 JANUARY 1995

### THE LAFFITE COLLECTION THE SAM HOUSTON REGIONAL LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTER, LIBERTY, TEXAS A CHRONOLOGY

JIM NONUS

**N**ote: As the first scheduled Special Event of The Laffite Society, members will visit the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center at Liberty, Texas. This program provides preliminary information regarding the collection and a chronology of the Collection's path, but does not address the issue of authenticity.

One of the early subjects one encounters in the investigation of Jean Laffite and his times, is the rather large collection of material which

was originally proffered by John Andrecheyne Laflin of Omaha, Nebraska in the early 1940s. Laflin had claimed to be the great grandson of Jean Laffite.

The Collection at Liberty is thought by some to be authentic and others to be spurious. Regardless of an individuals conclusions regarding authenticity of the "Laffite Collection", the Sam Houston Library has a wealth of other material relating to Laffite and his time period.

#### Background on John Andrecheyne Laflin.

June 4, 1893	Laflin born in Omaha, Nebraska.
Feb 20, 1970	Laflin died in Columbia, South Carolina.
Circa 1940	Laflin retired from the Missouri Pacific Railroad.
1942	Laflin contacted Ray and Sue Thompson of New Orleans, Laffite authorities, concerning his collection of documents. (Refer to Ray and Sue Thompson articles in Spring, 1988, and Summer, 1988 issues of <u>The Laffite Study Group Newsletter</u> for details of these meetings.)

1. Laflin stayed with Thompsons several weeks in 1942, and several months in subsequent years.



2. Lafflin never produced any promised documents.
3.
  - a. Thompsons introduced Lafflin to many of Laffite's followers' descendants on Grand Isle, and all pronounced him a fraud.
  - b. Thompsons introduced him to Lyle Saxon, author of Lafitte the Pirate, who felt Lafflin was a fraud.
  - c. Lafflin finally met Stanley C. Arthur, who used Lafflin's material to write Jean Lafitte, [sic] Gentleman Rover, (1952).

1957	Lafflin advised Thompsons that he had employed six different translators, in two separate states, to translate the Journals from the original French.
1958	Lafflin published, via Vantage Press, <u>The Journal of Jean Laffite: The Privateer-Patriot's Own Story</u> .
Circa 1959	A fire in the home of Lafflin destroyed some of the Collection.
1960	Lafflin asked Thompsons to co-author book using alleged diaries as basis, Thompsons refused.
1960	Fire at WSPA-TV, Spartanburg, South Carolina, damaged the Journal, 2 copy books, a family bible, which sustained minor damage.
1969	7 July, Richard G. Santos, acted as Agent to sell Collection. (Refer to letter from Santos to Reagan Brown, Dorman David, Bob Davis, Tony Duty, Johnny Jenkins, W. H. Morrison, and William Simpson.)
1969	8 July, Lafflin sold the Collection to John H. Jenkins (Refer to Bill of Sale, Laffite to Jenkins; Also, Invoice #764 for \$7,000 of a total of \$15,000 from Jenkins to Lafflin.)
1969 ?	John Jenkins authorized Richard Santos to act as his agent in selling the Collection. (Refer to letter from John Jenkins, undated).
19??	Simpson sold the Collection to William D. Burch.
1975	Burch sold the Collection to Governor Price Daniel, for \$20,000.
1978	Governor Daniel donated the Collection to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, Texas, where it is now housed.

13 FEBRUARY 1995

# GALVESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LAFFITE COIN AND STATUE PROJECT

R. DALE OLSON

(Note: Due to a last minute change in the announced speaker for the General Meeting in February, the following program was substituted.)

In 1976, as part of the Bicentennial celebration of the United States, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce announced a project which would pay homage to Jean Laffite. This promotional effort included the minting of Laffite commemorative coins, the printing of a map of Galveston, and the casting of a Laffite statue.

No current member of the Chamber staff was with the organization in 1976, and, due to damage of the Chamber's offices during hurricane Alicia, most of the original records relating to the project were destroyed.

Through interviews with local businessmen who were active in the Chamber of Commerce in 1976, the following information has been established.

Coins were minted showing a map of Galveston on one side and a representation of a stereotypical "pirate", with sword held high, on the other. The coins were made of four different materials or finishes; bronze, pewter, sterling silver, and gold plated sterling silver. These coins were sold separately or as a set, packaged in a two-sided acrylic display and sequentially numbered. The number of coins minted and the number of sets offered is unknown.

An "old" map of Galveston was printed and sold for \$1.00, and was the most financially successful item in the project. Having no copy of this map, identification is not possible. The number of maps sold, or originally printed, is unknown.

The bronze statues, approximately 18 inches in height, were executed by sculptor Juan Dell. There is no information at hand on how he came to be chosen as sculptor. Mr. Dell's whereabouts is currently unknown. The number of bronzes actually cast is unknown, but has been estimated to have approximated fifteen or less. According to one businessman whose tenure with the Chamber encompassed the time period in question, there exists the possibility that none of the statues were actually sold, but were placed on loan to various business leaders in Galveston as a marketing technique. A list price of \$1000 was placed on each statue.

There are currently two statues of which the writer is aware on public display in Galveston. One, marked "10-150" is on display in the offices of the Chamber of Commerce at the Moody Convention Center, and another, marked "18-150" is housed in the Galveston Texas History Center at the Rosenberg Library. The only other statue whose location has been confirmed at the time of this writing (February, 1995) is in the possession of Mr. Don Gartman, formerly of the Houston Lighting and Power Company, but recently residing in Argentina. One statue was reportedly in the possession of J.R. McConnell, a man whose exploits in Galveston during the 1970's have been called the greatest real estate fraud in the history of the United States. McConnell committed suicide while in prison and the location of his statue is unknown.

The Chamber of Commerce is currently selling the remaining inventory of some bronze and pewter coins at an approximate cost of \$5.00.

Yet to be answered are numerous questions concerning the Laffite project. Where is Juan Dell and the casting from which the statues were cast? Where were the coins minted and where are the dies? How many statues were cast, and where are they at this time?

Members interested in purchasing coins from the Chamber's current inventory, please contact the Galveston Chamber of Commerce, 2106 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston, Texas, 77551 (409-763-5326).

13 MARCH 1995

## CHAMP D'ASILE FRENCH FILIBUSTERS ON THE TEXAS FRONTIER

ANDREW W. HALL

With the final defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in June 1815, there came to an end one of the longest and most costly series of wars seen up to that time. France had been almost continually at war for more than 20 years. Napoleon was removed to exile at St. Helena, a remote British colony in the South Atlantic, and Louis XVIII reinstated the monarchy in France. Although the Bourbons were remarkably lenient toward most Frenchmen who had taken an active part in supporting first the revolution and, later, Napoleon's attempts to create an empire, hundreds of French military officers chose to leave their homeland and continue their lives abroad. They remained loyal to Napoleon, and dreamed of the day when he would be restored to power.

Many of these exiles settled in Philadelphia. The city already had a large population of French emigrés. This number swelled in 1815-1816, and efforts began to secure federal land grants to enable them to settle permanently in the U.S. The Congress eventually made the Frenchmen a large grant of land in western Alabama, near the Tombigbee River. But the ma-

jority of Frenchmen were not particularly interested in beginning an agrarian settlement and, already short of cash, quickly sold off their land titles to speculators.

During this period, Charles Lallemand, a former general in Napoleon's inner circle, de-



*Charles Lallemand*

vised a plan to establish a military encampment in what is now Texas. The plan seemed feasible, for although the area was formally claimed by Spain as part of Mexico, the viceroy's government in Mexico City was besieged by revolutionaries. There was no effective Spanish government in Texas, and Lallemand believed that his encampment would be safe from Spanish resistance. Although Lallemand and his officers never acknowledged the encampment's true purpose, it is now commonly accepted that the Frenchmen hoped to use the base to launch a military campaign that would topple the Spanish government in Mexico and enable Frenchmen loyal to Napoleon to create a new empire in the Americas. Napoleon's brother Joseph, who had been placed by his brother on the Spanish throne during the recent wars, was living in the United States at the time and was said to have provided some of the money to support Lallemand's expedition.

In December 1817 a group of the exiles boarded the 60-ton schooner *Huntress* at Philadelphia and set sail for Texas. Crammed aboard the little vessel were 90 French exiles. In addition to the men, their personal gear and supplies for the new colony, the schooner also secretly carried a cargo that gave the lie to the expedition's supposedly peaceful objective: 600 muskets, 400 swords, 12,000 pounds of powder and six pieces of field artillery.<sup>1</sup>

General Lallemand did not accompany them; instead the men found themselves under the command of a newcomer, Lallemand's appointed deputy, General Rigaud. Rigaud would assume effective command of the expedition in the field, and lost no time in organizing the men along the lines of a military unit. No sooner had the *Huntress* sailed than Rigaud mustered the men and grouped them into three regiments, one each of infantry, cavalry and artillery. The men were assigned to these regiments, or "cohorts," according to their military experience. Since all the men were former officers, the new organization was remarkably top-heavy in "brass." After Rigaud sorted out the retired

colonels, majors, surgeons, adjutants and other staff officers, he discovered that there were a total of forty men remaining to form the cohorts. Ten were captains, so the 30 junior officers remaining were divided equally among the cohorts to serve as the "lower ranks."<sup>2</sup>

The *Huntress* continued her southward journey, rounded the Florida Keys and sailed westward into the Gulf of Mexico. The schooner had already passed the mouth of the Mississippi when General Rigaud announced that their destination was Galveston Island. The *Huntress'* master, unfamiliar with the Texas coast, was unwilling to attempt the shoals and sandbars there, but the schooner was soon intercepted by another vessel bearing a Spanish flag. An officer boarded the *Huntress* and, upon learning the nature of the expedition, identified himself as one of Jean Laffite's captains. His vessel, the *Couleuvre*, led the *Huntress* to Galveston and into the harbor, where the Frenchmen disembarked on January 21, 1818 and set up camp to await the arrival of General Lallemand and other recruits.<sup>3</sup>

The Frenchmen were not impressed with their first visions of Texas. One recalled that, instead of a city and the region that had been pompously described to us, we found only a resolutely desert country. Only three cabins of ten or twelve square feet served as shelter for the corsairs on their return from their trips. Not a single tree; not even any plants except marine life. The land is a dry sand elevated barely two feet above sea level, and it is inundated as deep as two or three feet in bad weather, as we were not long in finding out.<sup>4</sup>

The Frenchmen were no more impressed with Laffite's men than with the terrain. The privateer's men, another expedition member recalled, were freebooters gathered from among all the nations of the earth and determined to put into practice the traditions of the buccaneers of old. They gave themselves up to the most shameless debauchery and disgusting immorality, and only their chief by his extraordinary strength and indomitable resolution had the

slightest control over their wild and savage natures.<sup>5</sup>

Charles Lallemand arrived at Galveston with another contingent of men in early March. After an long round of celebrations, the Frenchmen — now joined by a smattering of Spaniards, Italians, Americans and few buccaneers — set out for the Trinity River. They crossed Galveston Bay in boats sold them by Laffite; a winter squall swept over the bay and one of boats was sunk, drowning several men. After 48 hours' hard rowing, the expedition reached the mouth of the Trinity.<sup>6</sup>

Leaving a handful of men to bring up the boats and supplies by river, Lallemand disembarked his troops and set out overland for the site chosen for the new colony. The men carried only two days' rations; when these ran out, they tried to eat a lettuce-like plant they found growing in the brush. The men discovered too late that the plant was poisonous, and most soon collapsed with cramps and convulsions. There was no medicine, as the surgeon's supplies had been left behind with the boats. An Indian happened upon the incapacitated Frenchmen and, divining the cause of their ailment, concocted a remedy from nearby plants. The expedition resumed the march, and arrived at the site of the camp six days after leaving the boats.<sup>7</sup>

After getting lost in the maze of creeks and bayous near the mouth of the Trinity, the boats finally arrived at the site with provisions, but the long-range outlook for the camp's needs was already bleak. The boats carried only eight days' worth of food for the colony, and it would take at least two weeks to make the round trip to Galveston to purchase more from Laffite. The men's rations were reduced to a single biscuit per day, and later to a few ounces of rice.<sup>8</sup>

Short rations notwithstanding, Generals Lallemand and Rigaud immediately set the men to work building a military encampment. The site, located on the left (east) bank of the Trinity, was on a high, clear patch of ground sur-

rounded by groves of trees. Near the north end of the compound, the soldiers constructed two earthen forts, each with a perimeter of about 640 feet, and named them after the Lallemands. Fort Charles guarded the approaches to the camp along the bank of the river, while Fort Henri protected the northeastern edge of the camp. South of Fort Henri, the men cleared a rectangular parade ground and erected small huts or cabins around its perimeter. Along the east side of the parade ground were quartered the first, or infantry, cohort, commanded by Pierre Douarche. Across the south end of the parade ground were quartered the cavalrymen, under the command of Jean Chamasin and (later) Jean Schultz. The third and smallest cohort, that of the artillery, was quartered along the west side of the parade ground, under the command of Fabius Forni. To the west and south stood the generals' quarters, a crude hospital, guard posts and a row of outbuildings stretching down to the river.<sup>9</sup> They christened the compound *Champ d'Asile* — "Camp Asylum" — in an effort to reinforce the impression that they were hounded exiles seeking only to start a new life in a new land.

Some accounts claim the colony had as many as 400 inhabitants, but the actual number was smaller. Surviving rolls include the names of 139 men organized into the three cohorts. There were undoubtedly other men not mentioned on the rolls, as well as the senior officers and a handful of women. However, it seems unlikely that there were ever more than 250 people total at *Champ d'Asile*, and probably fewer. While the large majority were French, a quarter of the expedition's men were of other nationalities. This was particularly true of the third, or artillery, cohort, a full third of which was comprised of non-French soldiers.<sup>10</sup>

Much of each man's day at *Champ d'Asile* was spent in communal building projects, such as Forts Charles and Henri or on the generals' quarters or outbuildings. A part of each day was also set aside for military drill. The remainder was left for each man to work on building



his own quarters or to otherwise occupy his time. Many men treated the whole enterprise as an extended bivouac, organizing athletic competitions and swapping tales around the campfire late into the night. Few seemed to realize the seriousness of their isolation. The colony was not even remotely self-sufficient. A few men started small garden plots of their own, but these were not enough to supplement the colony's strictly rationed food supply. The men at Champ d'Asile never attempted organized agricultural pursuits in any way. There was no community garden or any real attempt to make the colony self-sustaining; throughout their time in Texas, the men of Champ d'Asile relied on external resources to provide for their needs. Of necessity, this usually meant purchasing supplies from Laffite, who was only too happy to stock the colonists' larder. It seems ironic that this loyal band of Napoleon's soldiers would forget their emperor's most famous maxim, that an army marches on its stomach.

On May 11, 1818, with Forts Charles and Henri quickly taking shape and the soldiers drilling on the parade ground, Charles Lallemant issued a written manifesto announcing the establishment of the colony and giving warning to any power that would challenge it. Though they promised their behavior to be "peaceful, active and industrious," the colonists also warned that "we shall be ready to devote ourselves to the defense of our settlement." "The land we have come to reclaim," the manifesto continued, "will either witness our success or our death."<sup>11</sup>

The Manifesto was widely published in the United States and in Europe. In France it was received with great enthusiasm. There was a great deal of sympathy remaining for the Napoleonic regime, and genuine concern for those Frenchmen living in exile in the United States and elsewhere. The notion of these loyal French soldiers, forced by persecution to establish a new colony in the wilderness, touched the sentiments of the French people. A public subscription was held in Paris, and over a year col-

lected nearly 100,000 francs for support of Champ d'Asile. By that time the colony had been abandoned and destroyed, but the expedition remained a popular subject of books, newspapers and pamphlets for months afterward.<sup>12</sup>

Though their compound was located in an isolated wilderness, there was very little secret about the existence of Champ d'Asile. The Frenchmen had frequent contact with the Indians, and boats from the colony made frequent trips to Galveston for supplies and communications. In time word filtered back to Champ d'Asile that a Spanish military force was on its way to crush the invaders and destroy the colony. The force, rumor had it, consisted of 1,200 cavalrymen supported by heavy ordnance. In fact, the Spanish force was much smaller, but its commander was shrewd enough not to reveal that fact too quickly. He camped several days' ride from Champ d'Asile, near enough to be an immediate threat to the colony but so far that it was impossible for Lallemant and Rigaud to obtain firsthand information about the size of the Spanish force. The Frenchmen, chronically short of supplies and weakened by disease and malnutrition, decided to make the prudent choice; they abandoned Champ d'Asile. The Spanish later burned what was left of the compound.<sup>13</sup>

By early September the Frenchmen had returned to Galveston, where they re-established their camp from the previous winter. In the middle of the month, a hurricane passed over the island, submerging the Frenchmen's camp under several feet of water and devastating Laffite's settlement nearby. The privateer lost the six vessels in the harbor — two brigs, three schooners and a felucca — and all the fresh water supplies on the island were contaminated. What remained of the French filibusters' supplies was lost, and the men's situation became increasingly desperate. Scurvy, dysentery and fever broke out, all made worse by the lack of food. General Lallemant sailed for New Orleans, promising to return in 40 days with fresh supplies and troops. He never came back to Galveston. Under Rigaud morale and discipline

quickly collapsed, and Frenchmen soon scattered, some making their way overland to the United States, while others joined Laffite's privateering crews. A few were able to return to France.<sup>14</sup>

General Rigaud died in New Orleans in 1820. Henri Lallemand, who had remained in New Orleans throughout the expedition, returned to Philadelphia and died there in 1823. Charles Lallemand eventually returned to Europe, where he participated in several revolutionary movements. He received 100,000 francs in Napoleon's will, and eventually served on the French Council of Peers. He later became military commander of Corsica, the island of Napoleon's birth, and died in Paris in 1839.

Although Champ d'Asile existed for less than five months, it remains one of the most in-

triguing chapters in American history, and has been recalled in numerous works of history and fiction. C. S. Forester, creator of the famed Horatio Hornblower, even used Champ d'Asile as the model for a fictional Napoleonic colony in Texas in *Admiral Hornblower in the West Indies*. In the story Hornblower, newly installed as the commander of British naval forces in the West Indies in 1821, encounters in New Orleans a famous French general who claims to be preparing to transport the colonists back to France. Hornblower suspects otherwise, and discovers that the general's real intention is to rescue Napoleon from exile at St. Helena. Hornblower is forced to risk everything to thwart the general's plans and prevent the resumption of the recent war. But that's a different story. . . .

<sup>1</sup> Jack Autry Dabbs, "Additional Notes on the Champ d'Asile." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 350-351; Jesse Reeves, "The Napoleonic Exiles in America." *Johns Hopkins University Studies* 22, 80.

<sup>2</sup> Dabbs, 351.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 352; Reeves, 81.

<sup>4</sup> Dabbs, 352.

<sup>5</sup> Fannie E. Ratchford, Ed. *The Story of Champ d'Asile as Told by Two of the Colonists*. Trans. by Donald oseph. Austin: Steck-Vaughn Company, 1969.

<sup>6</sup> Dabbs, 353.

<sup>7</sup> Reeves, 83-84.

<sup>8</sup> Dabbs, 354.

<sup>9</sup> Kent Gardien, "Take Pity on Our Glory: The Men of Champ d'Asile." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 87 (1984): 241-268.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 265.

<sup>11</sup> Reeves, 85-86.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, 87-88.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 91; Dabbs, 355; Ratchford, 21-22.

<sup>14</sup> Ratchford, 22-23; Dabbs, 355.

# MANIFESTO

CHAMP D'ASILE, TEXAS  
MAY 11TH, 1818

Gathered together by a series of similar misfortunes, which at first drove us from our homes and then scattered us abroad in various lands, we have now resolved to seek asylum where we can remember our misfortunes in order to profit by them. We see before us a vast extent of territory, at present uninhabited by civilized mankind and the extreme limits of which are in the possession of Indian tribes, who, caring for nothing but the chase, leave these broad acres uncultivated. Strong in adversity, we claim the first right given by God to man, that of settling in this country, clearing it and using the produce which nature never refuses to the patient laborer.

We attack no one and harbor no warlike intentions. We ask peace and friendship from all those who surround us and we shall be grateful for the slightest token of their goodwill. We shall respect the laws, religion, and customs of our civilized neighbors. We shall equally respect the independence and customs of the Indian tribes, whom we engage not to molest in their hunts or in any other exercise peculiar to them. We shall establish neighborly relations with all such as shall approach us and we hope to meet them in trade. Our behavior will be peaceful, active and industrious. We shall do our utmost to make ourselves useful and to render good for good.

But if it shall appear that our settlement is not respected and if persecution follows us into the wilds in which we have taken refuge, no reasonable man will find fault with us for re-

sisting. We shall be ready to devote ourselves to the defense of our settlement. Our resolve is taken beforehand. We are armed, as the necessity of our position requires us to be, and as men in similar situations have always been. The land we have come to reclaim will either witness our success or our death. We wish to live here honorably and in freedom, or to find a grave which the justice of man will hereafter decree to be that of heroes. We have the right, however, to expect a more happy result and our first care will be to deserve general approbation by laying down the principles by which we mean to live.

We shall call the new settlement Champ d'Asile. This name, while it will remind us of our misfortunes, will also express the necessity which we have of providing for the future, of establishing new homes, in a word, of creating a new Fatherland. The colony, which will be purely agrarian, and commercial in principle, will be military solely for its own protection. It will be divided into three companies each under a chief, who will keep the names of those forming his company. A general register compiled from the three partial ones will be kept at the central depot of the colony. The companies will be gathered into one place the better to avoid attacks from without and to live peacefully under the eye of authority. A code of laws will be drawn up securing personal liberty, the securing of property, the repression of injuries, and the maintenance of peace among the well-disposed, while it will frustrate the designs of the evil. Jesse Reeves, *The Napoleonic Exiles in America*. In Johns Hopkins University Studies, vol. 22. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 85-86.

10 APRIL 1995

## JOHN MCHENRY: PRIVATEER AND EARLY TEXAS SETTLER

JEAN L. EPPERSON

**J**ohn McHenry, born in Antrim County, Ireland, on March 22, 1798, left Ireland in 1811, stowing away on a ship at age 13 to avoid conscription in the British army (1). He came to America and led a long adventure filled life. At eighty years of age, he died in Texas.

Arriving in New Orleans in 1812 he stated, that he took part in the coasting trade until the British invasion, then he volunteered as a soldier under General Jackson in the battle of New Orleans. Another source places him on an American gunboat during the battle. (2)

Next, McHenry appears with the privateer Jean Laffite on the Texas coast and recalls sailing directly over Galveston Island into the bay when it was inundated by the 1818 hurricane. "At that time the top of only one tree was visible", he declared (3).

McHenry was in the Galveston commune in 1818 and 1819 where he was a trusted aide, and was mentioned by Laffite as being very sincere and loyal (4). Little is known about his time with Laffite, but he later told a neighbor that he and forty other men left for New Orleans on the brig General Victoria supplied by Laffite after learning that Laffite's privateering commission had expired and they were virtually pirates on the high seas. (5)

He then joined the ill-fated General James Long expedition, returned to Galveston, and participated in the capture of La Bahia. Here he was taken prisoner and jailed by the Mexicans. When released in December, 1821, ten months after his capture, he returned to New Orleans. (6)

His thirst for adventure not yet quenched, he enrolled in an expedition to aid Simon Bolivar in South America. He was assigned to the sloop of war Eureka under Captain Pelott and took part in the siege and capture of Porto Caballo. He was taken prisoner at Santo Domingo, escaped in six weeks and returned to New Orleans. (7)

McHenry bought a sailing vessel and entered the coasting trade between Texas and New Orleans. The name of the vessel was unknown, but could have been the sloop Juno which visited Lavaca Bay in April, 1823. (8)



*John McHenry*

*Photo courtesy of Mc Henry descendant Dortha Woodruff of Bellaire, Texas.*

In Stephen F. Austin's Register of Families, McHenry declared that he arrived in Texas to settle in 1828. He was listed as one of the original forty-one settlers of the Martin DeLeon Colony and the first Chief Justice of Victoria County.

On December 2, 1829, McHenry married Mary Kearnon. Two children were born to the union: Thomas on September 2, 1830, and Catherine Ann on September 2, 1831. A third child was rumored to have been buried at sea. Mary McHenry died June, 1832. (9)

A league of land on the west side of the Lavaca River was granted to McHenry on October 26, 1832.

McHenry married Rachel Douglas in 1834. Eleven children were born to this union. (10)

Settling on his land grant, McHenry became a farmer and a rancher. His cattle brand JH was registered in Victoria County in 1838.

During the Texas Revolution McHenry participated in the Grass Fight and the Battle of Gonzales, and was a signer of the Millican Gin Declaration of Independence.

John McHenry was respected and warmly remembered by his neighbors and contemporaries. One friend described him as "a true-hearted son of Ireland, a man utterly incapable of deception or falsehood". McHenry died in 1878 and is buried near where his home was on the Lavaca River in what is now Jackson County.

### Notes

1. Victoria Advocate Newspaper, "McHenry's Life an Enviably One", 1985.
2. Galveston Weekly News, February 18, 1878; Mary Fay Smith, War of 1812 Veterans in Texas. New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1979, 212.
3. Ellis, Michael J. The Hurricane Almanac. Dallas, Texas Edition, 1987, 57. Ellis states that McHenry sailed over the flooded Galveston Island in 1815. This is incorrect. The storm of 1815 was not a hurricane and would not have completely flooded Galveston Island.
4. Laffite, Jean. The Journal of Jean Laffite. New York: Vantage Press, 1958, 44, 105, 107, and 110.
5. Brown, John Henry. History of Texas. Austin and New York: Jenkins Publishing Co., 1970, 77, 78.
6. Webb, Walter Prescott. Handbook of Texas, II. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1952, 114.
7. Brown, History of Texas, 78.
8. Ibid. 78
9. Information from Cora Lee Gott of Pearland, Texas. She is a descendant of McHenry from his first marriage.
10. 1840 and 1850 U.S. Census of Victoria and Jackson Counties: Family Bible of Kate Flanagan, dated 1855, Jackson County, Texas.



8 MAY 1995

## THE DUVAL MUTINY ABOARD THE HOTSPUR ON CAPTAIN CAMPBELL'S FINAL VOYAGE

JOEL B. KIRKPATRICK

**D**uring Captain James Campbell's last priva-teering voyage in the Gulf of Mexico for Jean Laffite, he faced down a mutiny aboard his topsail schooner Hotspur in which sixteen men were killed.

There are two accounts of the mutiny, and they differ only in minor detail.

One version of the mutiny appeared in Ben C. Stuart's story "Sailed with the Noted Sea Rover", which appeared in The Galveston Daily News, on February 7, 1909. Although the story is about Captain John McHenry, it contains statements by Charles Cronea about the mutiny aboard Captain Campbell's ship.

Captain Campbell, in his autobiography, gives three lines to the mutiny. However, his widow, Mary Sabinal Campbell mentions it in a biographical sketch of her done by Charles W. Hayes, in Galveston, History of the Island and the City, published in 1879, and reprinted by an Austin, Texas publishing house in 1974.

At the time of the mutiny, Charles Cronea was 14 years of age. In his old age, during an interview (By Ben C. Stuart ?), the year before his death by a Galveston news reporter, Cronea tells of the mutiny, and how Captain Campbell put it down.

Here, in Stuart's 1909 story is the Cronea report on the mutiny:

"Charles Cronea, for many years a resident of Bolivar Peninsula, where he died in the early '90s at a very advanced age, served for a time on one of Lafitte's [sic] privateers commanded by Captain James Campbell.

"He was very young (14) at the time and was made cabin boy. (He also is reported to have served as a gunner aboard the ship, the Hotspur, manning a carronade along with Jean Callistre and Crazy Ben Dolliver.)

"The vessel was equipped at Baltimore, where many of the merchants were engaged in fitting out privateers. Cronea related this incident shortly before his death:

I don't know what he intended to do after that. I knew there was going to be a meeting, but didn't know it was going to take place that night. The men Duval got to go into the meeting were all French, except one and he was a Catalonian. The old crew were all Americans. Duval handed up a cask of brandy and gave it to the men. If it hadn't been for that he might have succeeded, but the brandy spoiled it all. Duval's men were on watch when the attack was made. Other members of the crew and the captain were all below.

Duval and his men could have called up the captain and killed him or made him a prisoner. They made the attack just about night(fall). Campbell went on deck and the mutineers surrounded him. But they were drunk and didn't have any plan. Some wanted to kill the captain, and others were for letting him go or making him a prisoner.

When they were quarrelling he put out his arms and brushed them aside, made one jump and landed in the cabin. But at that time the Americans who were not in the plot came on deck. The captain handed out the arms to them and the mutineers didn't last any time. The whole fourteen of them were killed. The

Catalonian was the only one who put up a good fight. He had a knife and killed two Americans, but he didn't have a chance to do any more damage, for his head was taken off with a cutlass.

"Duval was the only one of the mutineers who wasn't killed. They had a trial on board and he was condemned to be shot, but Campbell interfered and saved his life."

Here's the way May Sabinal Campbell describes the mutiny:

"During the late fall of 1820, Gustave Duval entered into a conspiracy with Thomas Cox and James Clark, the latter two being deck officers, along with all of the Frenchmen except Cronea who had boarded the Hotspur at Padre Island, with intent to seize control of the ship, kill the remainder of the crew and divide all the spoils of the battle that were aboard.

The mutiny was planned to take place while the conspirators were on watch and Captain Campbell and the remainder of the crew were below deck.

The conspirators, however, began drinking rum before the mutiny began, and when Campbell came up on deck, the only one who was sober enough to do so attacked him with a knife. Campbell returned below deck and armed his loyal crewmen with guns. Eventually all of the conspirators were killed, but not before two of the loyal crewmen were killed and others were wounded.

The Hotspur was soon aground in Southwest Louisiana near the Mermentau River."

Campbell devoted only three lines to the Duval Mutiny in his memoirs, it being seemingly painful to him to admit during his old age to the (number of) people he had killed or that conspirators could wish to assassinate him.

"When the ship was in the Gulf off

Galveston Island, the Captain put Duval into a boat with two men with instructions to land him and come back. There was a vessel in Galveston harbor and we did not know what she was, so the captain was afraid to go in."

"While the two men were going with Duval we saw a large yacht coming out toward us. The Captain got the men together and asked them what they thought had better be done."

"They agreed that it was dangerous to take any chances for we were very short-handed."

"Half of the crew had been killed in the mutiny. so the Captain, without waiting for the two men who had gone in the small boat with Duval, sailed away, and we never saw them again."

"When Campbell decided to quit privateering, he sailed to a port on the Louisiana Coast and there burned the vessel and disbanded the crew."

The French recruits to privateering in Laffite's band came from a group picked up off Charleston, S.C., and sailed to a location on North Padre Island. Cronea told the writer from the Galveston Daily News that he had jumped ship in New York. His father had apprenticed him aboard a French Naval Frigate in 1818 at the age of 13. A year later, he jumped ship in New York. He and other Frenchmen shipped out aboard a vessel bound for Charleston.

There, he and fourteen other Frenchmen signed aboard a ship said to be bound for Liverpool. But the ship, according to Cronea, "hadn't cleared the bar", when it was luffed, and a schooner running downwind sent a boat across.

The Captain of the English ship mustered his crew and told them the Captain of the schooner wanted fifteen to twenty men to cruise in the Gulf of Mexico.

Cronea and fourteen others volunteered and went aboard the schooner. Cronea remembered it was commanded by a man from Baltimore named Jones.

The schooner ran south, through the keys and into the Gulf of Mexico, "keeping out of the way of everything and flying American colors", Cronea told Stuart.

The schooner arrived off Corpus Christi and put a total of forty men ashore with blankets and food, telling them they would be picked up.

The next day, Cronea said, a hermaphrodite brig (schooner-brigantine) hove to off the beach and sent a boat ashore.

The officer who came ashore told the forty men they were to sail the brig, which he said was a privateer. Everyone agreed to go, according to Cronea's memoirs.

"The brig," he told Stuart, "was under the command of a man we knew as Carroll, but whom I later learned was Captain James Campbell. He was Laffite's right hand man."

"The brig bristled with guns and was squared-rigged on the foremast, schooner (fore and aft) rigged on the mainmast and flew five jibs and topsails, and could outsail anything afloat. Seamen of the time said such ships were all winds and no feet".

The ship, the Hotspur, flew the colors of the Republic of Cartagena (present-day Colombia), Cronea said, and raided Spanish shipping.

When the brig put into Mermentau, Louisiana, after the mutiny, late in 1820, and was burned, with Captain Campbell breaking up the crew, Cronea went ashore for good.

He told about all of these events in an interview in 1892 under shade trees in front of the U.S. Barge office in Galveston.

The reporter at the time said Cronea had sailed his butt-head schooner into Galveston with a load of watermelons from Bolivar Peninsula, and "his hair was white as human hair ever gets, and his black eyes sparkled, and his language was spiced with the choicest profanity."

12 JUNE 1995

## SOURCES ON JEAN LAFFITE AT THE ROSENBERG LIBRARY

ANNA B. PEEBLER

**T**he Galveston and Texas History Center of the Rosenberg Library in Galveston welcomes all researchers interested in Jean Laffite and his times on the Island. The GTHC is one of the best known archives in the state and contains approximately 21,000 linear feet of manuscripts, 12,700 books, 1,500 maps, 30,000 photographs, and numerous

newspapers and periodicals, brochures and architectural drawings. The GTHC archives concentrate on collecting local history for Galveston, city and county; however, it also has a good collection of books on general Texas history.

Members of the Laffite Society who have not used the facilities before may want to know that

the standard archival rules apply to all researchers. Those include: filling out an identification form for first time users, checking all belongings in provided lockers (the staff will supply paper and pencil, and a copy machine is available as well), using gloves with all fragile materials, and filling out request slips. The complete set of rules and regulations is readily available.

Individual indices for all the collections, including books, manuscripts, maps, and photographs are available to researchers wanting to work at their own pace. Individual questions are welcomed. Currently, the GTHC staff consists of four individuals: Casey Greene, Head of Special Collections, Shelly Henley, Assistant Archivist, Anna Peebler, Photo Archivist, and Julia Dunn, Archives clerk. Any member of the staff is able to help in most cases. However, Mr. Greene is probably the most familiar with the holdings because he has processed a large percentage of the collection during his tenure of ten years.

Overall, the GTHC offers sixteen books, twenty-six manuscript collections, five folders with various clippings, and a few illustrations regarding Jean Laffite, his men, and his camp in Galveston. All of these items are available to the public; however, all materials have to be used within the reading room, and some may be too fragile to be photocopied. According to Lise Darst, Museum Curator, there are no artifacts which could have belonged to Laffite in the Rosenberg Library. The Museum does possess a man's toiletry set attributed to James Campbell, one of Laffite's contemporaries, but its authenticity is questionable due to its much later Victorian style. Despite the popular myth that the Rosenberg Library's attic is rich with incredible papers and artifacts, the truth is that both the Archives and the Museum Collection have been extensively inventoried and cataloged. There are no more surprises in the storage. This might have been true before the construction of the Moody Wing of the library when the lack of space did not permit complete inventory of its holdings.

Most of the items regarding Laffite are secondary sources, such as articles and copies of memoirs attributed to his contemporaries, rather than Laffite originals. Currently, the archives hold only one authentic Laffite item. It is MSS #26-0003 which is a small note handwritten and signed by Jean Laffite. Other items are facsimiles, but their authenticity is questionable. For example, MSS #26-0399, facsimile of a letter written by Laffite to President Madison, and MSS #47-0029, facsimile of several pages from the Laffite-Mortimer family Bible.

Probably the most interesting collection regarding Laffite is MSS #76-0007. This is an artificial collection consisting mainly of research done on Laffite by several individuals including Robert C. Vogel and John Howells. This collection also includes several articles on Laffite from the first three decades of the 20th Century, several revised copies of a Laffite bibliography done in the 1920s and 1930, and a copy of a Laffite journal donated to the library by John A. Laffite [Lafflin] in 1967. While the journal's authenticity is questionable, the bibliography is very helpful in locating books and articles on Laffite from the 19th Century and early 20th Century. Some of these items may be available at the Rosenberg Library or may be obtained through the inter-library loan.

For researchers who live out of the Galveston area and cannot come to the GTHC in person, the staff can answer questions by mail. The GTHC receives up to forty letters a month, and most of them are answered within two weeks. In most cases, a letter should be addressed to Shelly Henley, Assistant Archivist, Rosenberg Library, 2310 Sealy, Galveston, Texas 77550. A research fee of \$5.00 should be included with a letter to cover the costs of photocopying (for large numbers of copies the library will bill the researcher). For those who can visit the archives in person, the GTHC is located on the third floor of the Rosenberg Library and is open 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

# CURRENT NEWS

## NEW BOOK RELEASE BY JEAN L. EPPERSON

**L**affite Society member Jean Epperson has recently announced the publication of a new book concerning Galveston Bay.

Published by Don Marler of Dogwood Press, Historical Vignettes of Galveston Bay is a soft covered work of approximately 250 pages with photographs, maps, bibliography, and index.

Jean Epperson is an authority on the early settlers who came to the Galveston Bay area prior to the fight for Texas Independence from Mexico. A focus of Ms. Epperson's research has been biographical information on individuals associated with Laffite who remained in the Galveston area following his departure in 1821.

According to a publicity release, the book contains:

- Part I      Galveston Bay
- Part II     Stories From Around the Bay
  - The French Trading Post on the Trinity River
  - Mutiny on the Topaz
  - The Mysterious Smiths
  - The 1834 Census of Anahuac
  - J. Frank Dobie's Great Grandfather
  - The Schooner Mary Affair

Captain William P. Harris and Red Bluff  
The S/S Cayuga, the Floating Capitol of Texas  
Captain Thomas "Mexican" Thompson  
Early Custom Houses in Galveston  
Burrell Franks, a Huntsman for Jean Laffite  
Flanders Grove to Evergreen to Kemah  
Who Were the Clear Lake Pirates?  
John M. Smith, A Texas Tory  
Ritson "Jawbone" Morris  
William Scott and Point Pleasant  
Thomas Jefferson Chamber's Portrait  
Bell Prairie Plantation and Henry Gillette

This book should represent an excellent addition to the library of anyone who maintains an interest in early Galveston, Laffite, and Texas history. It is available at a price of \$15.00 + \$2.00 shipping and handling. Texas residents must add a 6.25% sales tax. Members may order from either the author or publisher.

Jean Epperson  
Route 2, Box 162  
Dayton, Texas 77535  
713-385-2122

Dogwood Press  
Route 2, Box 3270  
Woodville, Texas 75979



## RECENT BOOK ACQUISITIONS BY MEMBERS

In recent weeks, and particularly during the special event to New Orleans, Laffite Society members purchased a number of books for their personal libraries. Following is a list of antiquarian book sellers in New Orleans and Galveston from whom members have recently acquired material related to the Laffites.

Most of these establishments will respond to telephone inquiries and will accept mail orders from members not able to visit in person.

**New Orleans:**  
**Arcadian Books & Art Prints**  
 714 Orleans Street  
 New Orleans, La.  
 504-523-4138

**Beckham's Book Store**  
 228 Decatur Street  
 New Orleans, La.  
 504-522-9875

**Crescent City books**  
 204 Chartres  
 New Orleans, La.  
 504-524-4997

**Dauphine Street Books**  
 410 Dauphine Street  
 New Orleans, La.  
 504-529-2333

**The Faulkner House**  
 624 Pirate's Alley  
 New Orleans, La.  
 504-524-2940

**Librairie Books**  
 823 Chartres Street  
 New Orleans, La.  
 504-525-4837

**Galveston**

**Galveston Bookshop**  
 514 23rd. Street  
 Galveston, Tx. 77550  
 409-765-6919

**Yesterday's Books**  
 101 21st. Street  
 Galveston, Tx. 77550  
 409-762-0335

...A representative listing of some of the books recently purchased by members.

**Hearn, Lafcadio**  
Chita (A Remembrance of Isle Dernier)  
 (A novel by Hearn, a highly collectible Louisiana writer)

**Herold, Christofer**  
The Age of Napoleon

**Ingraham, Joseph Holt**  
Lafitte (1888) (A comparatively old, and rare, novel regarding Laffite)

**Ingraham, Col Prentiss**  
Lafitte's Lieutenant (A rare paperback for children)

**Jackson, Charles Tenney**  
Captain Sazarac (A novel of an attempt to bring Napoleon to the U.S.)

**Krousel, Hilda S.**  
Don Antonio De Uloa: First Spanish Governor To Louisiana  
Louisiana State Historical quarterly  
 (Various issues containing writings by Faye, etc.)

**Saxon, Lyle**  
Lafitte The Pirate  
 (The old standard, available in many stores)

**Shreve, Royal O.**  
The Finished Scoundrel  
 (The story of James Wilkinson)

**Thompson, Ray**  
The Land of Lafitte (A book containing beautiful 1941 photographs of Grand Isle and New Orleans by Delacroix)

## FOREIGN RESEARCH UPDATE

### 1810 LAFON MAP OF GALVESTON BAY

On June 3, the Society's Secretary received a response to her inquiry of March 20 for a larger photostatic copy of an unsigned 1810 map of Galveston Bay, now housed in the National Archives of Mexico. The map is alleged to have been drawn by Bartholemy Lafon, prominent New Orleans engineer/architect and close associate of Jean Laffite. The Archives cannot provide a larger copy of the map, but have offered to the Society for purchase an 8" x 10" photograph. At the 12 June 1995 General Meeting, the Society voted to purchase the photograph, details of which will be handled by the Laffite Society Secretary. Upon receipt of the map, if its quality is acceptable, a copy will be published in a subsequent issue of The Chronicles.

### LE PECQ, FRANCE GENEALOGICAL GROUP

The Society's Secretary recently received a copy of the April, 1995 issue of Genealogie et Histoire du Caraïbe (Genealogy and History of the Caribbean) from the Le Pecq, France genealogy group. An entire column was devoted to membership information about the Laffite Society and to an historical inquiry submitted by member Don Marler regarding the alleged half-sibling relationship of Laffite's first wife, Chris-

tina Lawein (Levine), and Alexander Hamilton. The GHC bulletin also included information about reading sources on Laffite and the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast history available through Dogwood Press of Woodville, TX.

### Information in the bulletin of possible interest to members:

Michael Marsaudon papers (104 pieces), recently acquired collection at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., of correspondence from individuals engaged in commerce in New Orleans and Bordeaux, France in the 1770s, '80s, '90s, including a letter from "Mr Lafitte" [sic] and one mentioning a "Mr. Lafitte" [sic], both letters from Bordeaux, France. [For more information on this collection, write to: Mr. Michael North, Lauinger Library, Special Collections, 3700 O Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20057-1006.]

The GHC bulletin [text mostly in French] is a good source of historical information on individuals and families of French origin who emigrated to the islands of the Caribbean during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. [For questions regarding contents of the GHC bulletin, please inquire through the Laffite Society Secretary.]

## NEW GALVESTON HARBOR TOURS PASS LAFFITE SITES

**T**he opportunity to tour Galveston Harbor from the perspective of Laffite's contemporaries is now available through Galveston Harbor Tours, a new cooperative venture between several

Galveston entrepreneurs. For connoisseurs of local history, it may be that the new tour boat even passes over a Laffite treasure site!

The "Seagull", a tour boat with a capacity of 45 guests, sails daily, Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Pier 22 on Galveston's Harbor between May and September.

The 45 minute tour highlights sugar, banana, cotton, and sulphur docks, the grain elevator and container, rail, and barge terminals, the Tall Ship "Elissa", the Texas Seaport Museum, Seawolf Park with its WWII Destroyer Escort Ship and Submarine. It also shows repairs and renovations to oil rigs, tankers, barges and ships at the Galveston Ship Yards. Dolphins, schools of fish, and flocks of seagulls often accompany the tour.

"Commodore" Victor Lang, a "BOI" (Born on the Island) native who long ago left Galveston for an exciting career in politics in both Philadelphia and Washington D.C., has returned to the Island and now conducts the tours with insight and enthusiasm. A raconteur of exceptional ability, "Commodore" Lang has been diligent in presenting an accurate representation of the days of Laffite at Galveston.

The route of the "Seagull" includes the foot of 14th Street, near the location of the Maison Rouge at 1417 Avenue A. It passes over the 14th Street site where, in 1903, various artifacts, allegedly from the Laffite days, were recovered by a dredge boat.

According to the Galveston Daily News (15 September 1903, page 12), the dredgeboat "George Sealy", under the command of Captain George Nelson, uncovered material which "... has brought to light the most authentic proof of [Laffite's] treasure". The writing states, "For several days past, relics have been pumped up about opposite Fourteenth street. Among them are old Spanish coins, silver and copper. Of the

silver coins six have been found. They are about the size of a silver dollar, but considerably lighter, being not so thick as the American dollar. One of them which was shown to a representative of The News yesterday, bore the date of 1812 and is in a good state of preservation ... The copper coins (there were only two of them found) have not been cleaned and, therefore, it is not easy to tell just what they are."

The anonymous author continues; "Some three hundred pounds of old-time marine copper bolts and spikes, varying in length from six inches to two feet, was also brought to the surface. According to experts, these spikes and bolts are of a sort which long since have ceased to be used."

"The coins do not constitute the whole of the interesting find, for several other things, tending to recall facts and awaken the fancy, have been brought to light and give mute testimony to happenings of a strenuous sort in this part of the country at a long time past. A bombshell of the ancient wooden plug kind is one of them ... Captain Nelson said there seem to be many large stones at the bottom off the bay at the point indicated. Only one has been raised, though. It is about an eighteen-inch cube and is extraordinarily heavy ... What connection these stones have with the other finds is hard to understand. It may be they were used by Lafitte [sic] for the purpose of aiding in some way in the location of his sunken treasure. It may be they formed ballast of one or more of his pirate boats ...".

The "Seagull" tour is modestly priced at \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors (55 or older), and \$2 for children under 12. Further information may be obtained by writing to "The Seagull", P.O. Box 2010, Galveston, Texas 77553, or by calling 409-765-1700.

## OBSERVED...WITHOUT COMMENT

The relationship between The Laffite Society and professional wrestling is tenuous, at best. Members of The Society would usually be expected to be found perusing the pages of a decades old Louisiana State Historical Quarterly, not channel surfing in search of a wrestling match.

However, a wrestler using the name "Jean Pierre Laffite" has made his appearance on the

national circuit of professional wrestling, occasionally appearing on television.

"Jean Pierre Laffite" is referred to by commentators as being descended from Jean Laffite, wears a patch over one eye, and "steals" wallets from ringside spectators.

## RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Randy Pace ..... Early Galveston Buildings (1820 - 1860)

Dick Rasche ..... Bibliography, especially magazine references

Wil Zapalac ..... Maritime and Naval activities related to Laffite

All members are encouraged to submit their special areas of interest for publication in this column

## A NOTE TO GEOGRAPHICALLY CHALLENGED MEMBERS

Although The Laffite Society holds monthly meetings on Galveston Island (near Texas), a large percentage of current members live in state other than Texas, and cities other than Galveston.

The primary avenue of communication with these distant members is through The Laffite Chronicles. The Society does, however, sincerely encourage the active participation by

members from locales other than Galveston. There are several ways in which this may be accomplished.

First, any member planning to be in the Galveston area should contact The Society, advising of travel plans. Considering the number of local members, it is possible that someone may meet with you and discuss our common interests. Also, we encourage members to

consider visiting one of our regular General Meetings, held each month at the Rosenberg Library on Galveston Island. A guest speaker, and group discussion, is featured every month.

Second, members may plan to join a Special Event, such as the one in May, 1995 to Grand Isle, Grande Terre, and New Orleans. Although not officially scheduled at this writing, there exists a strong probability that The Society will again visit the New Orleans area next Spring or Summer. Perhaps you may join us.

Third, one may submit their particular area of interest or research for inclusion in the "Research Directions" section of the Chronicles. This will enable others with similar interests to open lines of communications.

Fourth, should any member plan to be in the Galveston area, and possess expertise in any aspect of the Laffite story, you may serve as guest speaker for a General Meeting.

Finally, members may contribute to The Laffite Society Chronicles. One need not be a professional writer to share experiences or research with the membership. Members of the Chronicles Staff will be very happy to assist with editing, and even writing assistance, should such be requested or necessary.

The Board of Directors encourages your active participation.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

SAM HOUSTON REGIONAL LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTER

The first Special Event of the Laffite Society included a visit to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center at Liberty, Texas, the repository of the Laffite Collection originally purchased and donated by the late Governor Price Daniel.

The Library, located several miles outside of Liberty, is situated near the Trinity River in a rural setting surrounded by the omnipresent East Texas pines.

Director Robert Schaadt presented members with a history of the collection and an objective review of the evidence for and against its authenticity. Following the presentation by Mr.

Schaadt, Penny Clark, Archivist and Curator, directed a tour of the adjacent replica of the Texas Governor's Mansion. The huge home, now serving essentially as a museum for Daniel memorabilia, is occasionally used for various receptions and social events.

The group adjourned into the city of Liberty for a late lunch. Members who returned to the Library following lunch were assisted in their research by Librarian Darlene Mott.

Upon the suggestion of Mr. Schaadt, the Society is considering making the meet in Liberty an annual affair.

## WELCOME NEW LAFFITIANS

(JANUARY 1, 1995–30 JUNE, 1995)

Ronald Austin and Beth Austin  
Kingwood, Texas

Mary Faye Barnes  
Galveston County Historical Commission  
Galveston, Texas

W.T. Block  
Nederland, Texas

Steve E. Comer  
Dallas Paleontological Society  
Arlington, Texas

Mary S. Fay  
Houston, Texas

Andrew W. Hall, Becky Hall  
Galveston, Texas

Patrick H. Latiolais, Jr.  
Broussard, Louisiana

Bob Lilliston  
Overland Park, Kansas

Richard R. Rasche  
Galveston, Texas

Bill Reid  
Gilchrist, Texas

Ellen Rienstra  
Beaumont, Texas

Dr. Reginald Wilson and Betty Wilson  
Dayton, Texas

Wil Zapalac  
Galveston, Texas





*"Laffite Society members visit the Sam Houston Regional Library and Museum at Liberty, Texas. Upper left, Diane Olson, Robert Schaad, Director of the Library, Dale Olson, Jean Epperson. Center left, Bernadette Foley, Robert Schaad, Jim Nonus, Bill Foley. Group at the entrance of a reproduction of the Governor's Mansion on the grounds of the Sam Houston Regional Library, with Penny Clarke, Archivist and Curator, second from right".*



# THANK YOU FROM THE SOCIETY

Thanks to:

Mayor Andy Valence of Grand Isle for the Key to the City and the gracious manner in which members were received.

Mayor Barbara Crews of Galveston for the Proclamation presented to Mayor Andy Valence of Grand Isle.

Councilman David Bowers of Galveston for his assistance in obtaining the Proclamation.

Members of the Galveston City Council for their support in obtaining the Proclamation.

Lavita Cheramie, owner of Cigar's Cajun Cuisine of Grand Isle in hosting dinner for The Society and providing commentary on the history of her family and the restaurant.

Again, Jean and Pat Landry, and Bob Looper (already mentioned in the previous Chronicles), for their assistance in planning the Grande Terre trip, and for talks given to The Society during the trip.

The United States Coast Guard stationed at Grand Isle for their courtesy and professionalism in providing transportation to Grande Terre.

John Dameier, Project Coordinator for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at Grande Terre, for providing members with a tour of Grande Terre and very informative comments concerning the island.

Wanda Lee Dicky of the Jean Laffite National Historical Park for her invaluable tour of the Vieux Carre and Laffite haunts in New Orleans.

All participants in the special event to Grand Isle, Grande Terre, and New Orleans.

# CALENDAR 1995

**January 9, Monday, 6:00 p.m.**

Board of Directors Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**January 9, Monday, 7:00 p.m.**

General Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**February 4, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

Special Event. Visit to the Laffite Collection at the Sam Houston Regional Library, Liberty, Texas

**February 13, Monday, 7:00 p.m.**

General Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**March 13, Monday, 7:00 p.m.**

General Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**April 10, Monday, 6:00 p.m.**

Board of Directors Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**April 10, Monday, 7:00 p.m.**

General Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**May 8, Monday, 7:00 p.m.**

General Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**May 19-21, Friday, Saturday, Sunday**

Special Event. Visit to Grand Isle, Grande Terre, New Orleans. Details to be announced.

**June 12, Monday, 7:00 p.m.**

General Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**July 10, Monday, 6:00 p.m.**

Board of Directors Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**July 10, Monday, 7:00 p.m.**

General Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**August 14, Monday, 7:00 p.m.**

General Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**September 11, Monday, 7:00 p.m.**

General Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**October 9, Monday, 6:00 p.m.**

Board of Directors Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**October 9, Monday, 7:00 p.m.**

General Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**October 14, Saturday (Canceled)**

Special Event. Visit to grave site of James Campbell, Virginia Point, Texas

**November 13, Monday, 7:00 p.m.**

General Meeting, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas

**December 11, Monday, 7:00 p.m.**

General Meeting, Holiday Social. Location to be Announced, Galveston, Texas

## *The Laffite Society founding board of directors*

President ..... R. Dale Olson  
First Vice President ..... Jim Nonus  
Second Vice President ..... Randy Pace  
Third Vice President ..... Diane Olson  
Secretary ..... Dorothy McDonald Karilanova  
Treasurer ..... James B. Earthman  
Archivist ..... Kurt Voss  
Parliamentarian ..... Lou MacBeth  
Coordinator of Research ..... Bill Foley  
Historian ..... Bernadette Foley

*The Laffite Society is a not-for-profit organization devoted to the study of the Laffites, and the geographical locales and chronologic era associated with them.*

*The Society holds Board and General Meetings at the McCullough Room of the Rosenberg Library on Galveston Island, Texas, except for the meeting in December, which is held at an alternative location to be announced.*

*Annual dues are:*

Student ..... \$15.00  
Senior (Over 65) ..... \$15.00  
Institution ..... \$15.00  
Individual ..... \$30.00  
Family ..... \$35.00  
Sustaining Member ..... \$100.00  
Life Membership (One Payment) ..... \$350.00

*Dues are for the calendar year and must be paid during the month of January.*

*Special events are held periodically, and members are notified of these events through the Calendar published in the Chronicles and by special mailers. The Laffite Society Chronicles is published two times per year in January, and July.*