

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
Nonus Gallery, 2411 Strand, Galveston, Texas 77550

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 12, 2009

BOARD PRESENT: President, Ed Jamison; 1st Vice President, Jim Nonus; 2nd Vice President, Kathy Modzelewski; 3rd Vice President, Lynette Haaga; Secretary *pro tem* and Archivist, Jeff Modzelewski; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian, Ginny Roberts; Press Director, Dave Roberts.

BOARD ABSENT: Editor of Publications *pro tem*, Dan Cote; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Privateer-at-Arms (nominal), Wil Zapalac.

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Don Marler; Jeff Modzelewski; Kathy Modzelewski; R. Dale Olson.

ADVISORY BOARD ABSENT: Jean Epperson; Pam Keyes; Gene Marshall; Robert Vogel; Dr. Reginald Wilson.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

President Ed Jamison recognized guests Ann Burns of Galveston and Jeanne MacDonald of Angleton. He acknowledged Don and Sybil Marler, long-time members now unable to attend meetings as frequently as in the past, and Jan Porter with the Salvation Army for the good work that entity performs.

PROGRAM: Michael Bailey, Curator of the Brazoria County Historical Museum, delivered a lecture and visual presentation titled "Rockets' Red Glare - Early History and Use of the Rocket in Warfare." The talk began by noting that the first documentation of rocket warfare dated from 1232 and concerned a battle in which the Chinese defeated the Mongols, while the first text in English on the construction and use of rockets dates from 1696. Francis Scott Key documented the rockets and the visual impact of their glare in the words to our national anthem as he watched the bombardment by the British of Fort McHenry in Baltimore during the War of 1812. Michael concluded by establishing a local rocketry connection, noting that rockets were manufactured in Galveston during the Civil War era. Michael also distributed several hand-outs related to his lecture.

After the program, the following items were discussed:

- Michael Bailey was asked about the history of the town of San Luis on San Luis Pass. He noted that it existed from about 1840 to 1846, by which time the residents had tired of rebuilding after storms. San Luis had a population of about 4,000, and boasted its own newspaper, *The San Luis Advocate*. Its location was approximately that of present-day Treasure and Mud Islands.
- Treasurer Nancy Beaman reported beginning and ending bank-account balances of \$2,720.14 and \$2,785.14, respectively, and noted that the balances do not vary much except for those months in which the *Laffite Society Chronicles* are issued and the annual holiday party is held. Nancy also noted that the membership list would be uploaded to the Society's Web site.
- Ed Jamison recognized Lynette Haaga for coordinating the refreshments; Lynette in turn acknowledged those who had brought food that evening and encouraged attendees to sign up to do so at future meetings.

- Michael Bailey mentioned the availability of Thomas Edison film of the aftermath of the Great Galveston Storm of 1900, lengthier clips than that at the Galveston County Museum, on-line in the Library of Congress's "American Memory Collection" at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/mopic/ndlmps.html>.
- Michael also mentioned new finds at the San Jacinto Battleground and a lecture by Greg Dimmick about same on Thursday, 05/21/2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Clayton Library in Houston. Researchers have discovered the grounded weapons of surrendering Mexican troops.
- Rob Peterson noted, with regard to his efforts to obtain a complete set of the publications of the defunct Laffite Study Group, that the only issues he lacked were available in the collection of Robert Vogel, and that he would secure copies of these when Robert was available to transmit them.
- Don Marler mentioned that the person to whom he had sold his Dogwood Press publishing company some years back was now offering it for sale for \$15,000. Dogwood Press holds the rights to publish approximately forty titles. The Web address is <http://www.dogwoodpressonline.com>. Don added that he would donate his Risograph printing press to the person who purchased Dogwood Press, or to the Laffite Society if it wished.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Submitted by

Jeff Modzelewski
Secretary *pro tem*
The Laffite Society