

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

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 14, 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; Editor of Publications *pro tem* Dan Cote; Parliamentarian Diane Olson; Privateer-at-Arms (nominal) Wil Zapalac.

BOARD ABSENT: Historian Ginny Roberts; Press Director Dave Roberts; Treasurer Nancy Beaman; Coordinator of Research Gary Fretz; Coordinator of Research Pam Keyes.

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

Ed Jamison welcomed this month's meeting attendees and thanked those who had brought the evening's refreshments. Lynette Haaga circulated a sign-up sheet for the provision of refreshments for future meetings. Ed noted that the minutes of the last meeting had been distributed as usual via the Yahoo Laffite newsgroup, and a brief discussion ensued regarding the difficulties some were encountering in joining that newsgroup. Jim Nonus and Jeff Modzelewski, who have the administrative privileges for the newsgroup, offered to assist those experiencing problems in any way they could. Jim suggested that, if necessary, minutes and announcements could be distributed in a mass e-mail to those for whom the Society has e-mail addresses but who cannot access the newsgroup.

PROGRAM: Dale and Diane Olson presented the evening's program, which discussed a study they had made of purported facial images of Jean Laffite. They originally presented this program at the January 2, 1996, meeting of the Laffite Society and subsequently published a related article in the *Laffite Society Chronicles*.

A number of extant images are alleged to be of Jean Laffite, by artists including De Franca, Fortier, Gros, Jarvis, Little, Suydam (based on a woodcut by Telfer), and Van Everen. These claims are of varying degrees of credibility, with some at the lower end of the spectrum bordering on the ludicrous.

At a time when the ability to manipulate graphics on a personal computer was much more elementary, the Olsons scanned and enlarged a number of these purported images of Laffite and took some nineteen different facial measurements in pixels of them – e.g., the distances from nose to ear, from nose to chin, etc. The Olsons then evaluated the degree of correlation of these measurements between the purported images of a younger Laffite with those of an older Laffite.

Although, as with so many Laffite matters, conclusions cannot be drawn with certainty, the Gros/Jarvis and Gros/Fortier images correlated well, but of all the images studied, perhaps the most likely to be a true representation of the face of Jean Laffite might be that of Suydam, made famous through its use on the cover of Lyle Saxon's book *Laffite The Pirate*.

Jim Nonus noted that his gallery would be relocating to a new location, on the north side of the 2200 block of Postoffice Street in the former Nathan's building, in the near future, hopefully within the next four to six weeks. He invited the Society to a "gallery-warming"/move-in party, with date, time, and details to follow as remodeling approaches completion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Submitted by

Jeff Modzelewski
Secretary *pro tem*
The Laffite Society