

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
The Nonus Collection, 2214 Postoffice Street, Galveston, Texas 77550

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 9, 2010

BOARD PRESENT: President Ed Jamison; 1st Vice President Jim Nonus; 2nd Vice President Kathy Modzelewski; 3rd Vice President Lynette Haaga; Treasurer Nancy Beaman; Secretary *pro tem* and Archivist Jeff Modzelewski; Editor of Publications *pro tem* Dan Cote; Historian Ginny Roberts; Press Director Dave Roberts; Privateer-At-Arms (nominal) Wil Zapalac.

BOARD ABSENT: Coordinator of Research Gary Fretz; Coordinator of Research Pam Keyes; Parliamentarian Diane Olson.

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean Epperson; Jeff Modzelewski; Kathy Modzelewski.

ADVISORY BOARD ABSENT: Pam Keyes; Don Marler; Gene Marshall; R. Dale Olson; Robert Vogel; Dr. Reginald Wilson.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Ed Jamison, who welcomed attendees. Prior to the evening's program, the following administrative items were discussed:

- Jim Nonus announced that he will be closing the Nonus Collection before the next meeting, and thus this evening's meeting would be the last held at the venue. Two sites are under serious consideration for future meetings, one just a block from the Nonus Collection, the other about one mile away. Kathy Modzelewski encouraged attendees to offer suggestions as well. The group thanked Jim for having allowed the Society to meet at the Nonus Collection and, previously, at Simpson's on the Strand. An attempt will be made to contact members to advise them of the new venue chosen in time for the April 13, 2010, meeting, but for those not reached in advance, a re-directing sign will be posted on the door/window(s) of the former Nonus Collection on the afternoon or early evening of that next meeting.
- Ed and Jim discussed the Society's biennial officer elections, to be held at the June 8, 2010, meeting. Jim will chair the Nominating Committee, which will present a slate of nominees at the May 11, 2010, meeting. Those elected in June will take office at the July 13, 2010, meeting. All members were encouraged to volunteer to serve.
- Ed thanked Lynette Haaga for her work in coordinating meeting refreshments, and Lynette passed around the sign-up sheet for volunteers for future dates.

PROGRAM: Ed introduced the evening's speakers, Jean Epperson and Wil Zapalac, who spoke about the privateer and filibuster Louis Michel Aury.

Aury was born in Paris in 1788. He deserted from the French Navy sometime between circa 1803 and 1810, and from 1810 until 1813 he engaged in privateering in the West Indies. He sojourned in Galveston from July 1816 until April 1817, when he and later Island arrival Jean Laffite differed in opinion as to which man controlled the site and Aury lost the debate. Aury then made his way to Amelia Island, Florida, and remained there until December 1817, at which time he passed on to the Caribbean. Louis Michel Aury died on Old Providence Island on August 30, 1821, at thirty-three years of age, after a

fall from horseback. The University of Texas at Austin retains a collection of letters exchanged between Aury and his family in France.

[Secretary's note: the following is an Internet link to the main Wikipedia page about Aury, and that page contains other links about him that may be of interest: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis-Michel_Aury. Remember that Wikipedia information can be edited by anyone and thus may contain inaccuracies.]

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by

Jeff Modzelewski
Secretary *pro tem*
The Laffite Society