

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

Meridian (formerly Edgewater) Retirement Center, 2228 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, Texas 77550

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

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; Historian Ginny Roberts; Parliamentarian Diane Olson; Press Director Dave Roberts; Privateer-At-Arms (nominal) Wil Zapalac.

BOARD ABSENT: Treasurer Nancy Beaman; Editor of Publications *pro tem* Dan Cote; Coordinator of Research Gary Fretz; Coordinator of Research Pam Keyes.

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Ed Jamison, who noted a change in the name of our new meeting venue, since the former Edgewater Retirement Center has now been leased to, and is operated by, Meridian Care Centers. On a sad note, Ed remarked that the sister of Treasurer Nancy Beaman had recently passed.

PROGRAM: Ed introduced the evening's speaker, Steve Austin, who presented a well-researched and information-packed program on the life of filibuster Francisco Javier Mina (December, 1789 – November, 1817). Mina, a Spaniard, fought against Spain for the independence of Mexico. He chose Galveston Island as his base in the autumn of 1816, about six months prior to the arrival of the Laffites. Mina thus knew both Jean and Pierre Laffite, as well as fellow filibuster Louis-Michel Aury. Only a year after settling in Galveston, Mina was executed by firing squad in Mexico for his revolutionary activities, about one month shy of his twenty-eighth birthday.

After the program, Linda Kuhn updated the group on the status of her and Jean Epperson's work with period maps to try to pinpoint the location of the Laffites' settlement on the east end of Galveston Island. Attendees were asked to volunteer to bring some refreshments for the next meeting. Lastly, Jim Nonus noted that the society's biennial elections would be held at the June 8, 2010, meeting, and encouraged any who wished to serve as officers to so advise him.

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