

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

Meridian Retirement Center, 2228 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77550

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Board Members Present: President Ed Jamison, FVP Jack Watson, Acting TVP Jim Nonus, Secretary Carolyn Peterson, Treasurer Nancy Beaman, Editor Dan Cote, Publicity Director Dave Roberts, Technology Director Rob Peterson, Archivist Larry Porter

Board Members Absent: SVP Kathy Modzelewski, Parliamentarian Diane Olson, Coordinator of Research Pam Keyes

Advisory Board Present: Jean Epperson

Advisory Board Absent: Pam Keyes, Jeff Modzelewski, Kathy Modzelewski, Robert Vogel, Dr. Reginald Wilson, R. Dale Olson

President Ed Jamison called the meeting to order at 6:27PM. He welcomed several guests in the audience. One was member, Betty Lou Glover from Lake Jackson. Jack Watson recognized other guests. Helen Mooty is a historian who specializing in historical architecture. She has a special interest in women of Southeast Texas and may give a future presentation on Jane Long. Also in the group was Helen's husband John Dickey, Bruce Dressner and Debbie Thomas of Seabrook. Jean Epperson introduced Patsy Parmer from Alabama who is a Society member and a direct descendent of the pirate Andrew Roach and Anson Taylor. Taylor's three sons died at the Alamo. Roach and Taylor were reputed to have been associates of Laffite.

Larry Porter introduced Natalie Wiest, an archive librarian at Texas A&M University-Galveston. She said TAMUG library may be interested in housing the Laffite archives and that the structural changes made to the library since hurricane Ike would provide a secure home. Tom Oertling said that a new course on ancient piracy is being introduced at the University and that the archives could provide good resource material for his students.

Program Speaker – Rob Peterson

Topic – The “Temple”

Rob is an electrical engineer and has been a member of the Society since 2007. He now serves as the director of Technology.

He spoke about his attempts to locate the “Temple,” a large shell mound in Baratavia and the site of many events in the Laffite literature. We saw some images from a 1994 boating excursion from the town of John Lafitte down to Grand Terre, yielding only the Fleming Cemetery as a candidate site. After being told that the Temple was on the western end of Lake Salvadore, he got only as far as the end of Bayou Gauche road on his next attempt.

Rob then presented a literature search including the Internet, the Chronicles and Laffite Study Group publications, and an assortment of books. He discussed five references to the “Little Temple”. This site was located at the convergence of Bayous Rigolette and Perot, an area called Little Temple by the locals today. He showed two old maps, by Lafon (1805) and Darby (1816), each with a “Temple” at the Little Temple site (on the south end of the Island of Baratavia or Boutte's Island). The one map showing all of Lake Salvadore showed no Temple there. Stanley Arthur said the Little Temple site was known as “The Temple” as late as the 1930's. It seems very

likely this was the site fortified by Jean Laffite prior to the Battle of New Orleans but the details of which of the two sites corresponds to each of the recorded Laffite events remain uncertain.

Steve Austin said that besides being a cartographer, Lafon was a pirate so he would have known where the Temple was located. Lafon was also an engineer according to Jean Epperson. Jim Nonus said that Lafon might have been the architect of the Maison Rouge.

Jack Watson reported that Jodi Wright Gidley from the Galveston County Museum would present next month's program discussing the status of the Museum since Ike and its interest in the Laffite Society. There will be no December meeting because of the Winter Banquet. In January the Society will host a book signing for Jean Epperson.

Ed Jamison recognized some other guests, Todd and Sherl Schott, who own the Chopin Mon Ami Restaurant in Galveston and are interested in participating in the Society.

Dan Cote had the latest Laffite Society Chronicles for distribution (Vol. XVI, Number 2).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31PM.

Submitted by Carolyn Peterson
Corresponding/Recording Secretary