

July 26, 1994

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

OF GALVESTON, 1994

1716 SEALY

Galveston, TX 77550

MEMBERS

Board present: Dale Olson, Chairman; Jim Nonus, First Vice-Chairman; Randy Pace, Second Vice-Chairman; Diane Olson, Third Vice-Chairman; Dorothy McD. Karilanovic, Secretary; Bruce Roberts, Treasurer; Kurt Voss, Archivist; Bill Foley, Research Director

Board absent: Mary Roberts, Historian; Lou MacBeth, Parliamentarian

CALL TO ORDER AND REVIEW OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. As no Board was yet in formation at the initial meeting of the Society on July 19, no minutes were available.

PRESENTATION OF ARCHIVAL AND RESEARCH MATERIAL

Bill Foley presented copies of two Galveston area survey maps which he had obtained on loan from the Galveston Corps of Engineers: one by Tremble & Lindsey dated 1837; a second by J.C. Scott, 1875. He reported that others were available dating back to 1820, and that the Rosenberg Library is said to have a collection.

Jim Nonus provided the Board with xeroxed copies of two other survey maps of Galveston: 1) One dated 1839, by Grosbeck, said to be a copy of the "original map of Galveston City" 2) Plan of the City of Galveston, 1845, by William H. Sandusky. Jim also distributed to members copies of three articles for their reading and research interests, entitled as follows:

- 1) Eugene C. Barker, "The American Slave Trade in Texas," The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, October, 1902, Vol. II:2, 145-158.

- 2) Fred Robbins, "The Origin and Development of the African Slave Trade in Galveston, Texas, and Surrounding Areas, from 1816 to 1836," East Texas Historical Journal, Vol. IX, No. 11, 1971.
- 3) Stanley Faye, "The Great Stroke of Pierre Laffite," The Louisiana Historical Quarterly, Vol. 23:No. 3, July, 1940, 733-826.

Dorothy McD. submitted a recent news clipping from The Galveston County Daily News, July 24, 1994, citing an indexed, central research source of genealogical records for South Texas and northeastern México, housed in the Local History Room of the Corpus Christi Public Library.

APPOINTMENT OF ARCHIVIST

Kurt Voss was offered and accepted the appointment as Archivist for the Society.

POST OFFICE BOX

Dale reported he had rented a postal box with combination lock for the Society located at the U.S. Postal Service Office, 601 Rosenberg in Galveston. The box number is #1325 (unreadable).

GENERAL MEETINGS/ROSENBERG LIBRARY

The first general meeting of The Laffite Society of Galveston, 1994, will be held in the McCullough Room, Rosenberg Library on Aug. 8 at 7:00 p.m. At this first public meeting of the Society, the Board will give a general overview of the goals of the Society and will outline the scope of each officer's duties. It is the aim of this presentation to attract the membership of individuals who might want to undertake scholarly research and to participate in the committee work of the Society.

Meetings after Aug. 8 will be held the second Monday of the month at the above appointed time and place. In compliance with the library's request the room reservation must be confirmed by the Thursday preceding the Monday meeting.

An announcement of meetings will be placed in the local newspaper.

DUES

Randy Pace submitted copies to the Board of a draft describing dues categories, along with a proposed membership form.

Bruce Roberts suggested that, before making up the dues categories, the Board might want to have an accurate idea of what total costs of membership entail for the year.

Discussion followed on cost of publishing a quarterly newsletter of the Society. Jim proposed a possible price range per member: \$4.68 for 4 surfaces to \$11.32 (the latter includes stitching, envelope, and postage), with a medium price of \$7.20 for 4 surfaces, stitching, envelope, and postage.

Further discussion on the usefulness of assessing dues once a year versus on a monthly basis. The Board voted to request that dues for all members be paid at one time. As a reminder to members, it was decided to place an announcement requesting payment of dues in an issue of the Society's quarterly newsletter.

Dues for individual category were set at \$30.00

LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dale submitted a draft of a "Letter to Members" stating the mission and goals of the Society. The Board approved the draft. It was decided to send copies of this letter to the members of the supposed now defunct Laffite Study Group based in Houston and Louisiana with the intention of attracting new members to the Galveston Society.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The Board decided to publish a membership list once a year.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Randy and Dorothy were appointed to review and revise the By-Laws proposed at the first meeting of the Society on July 19. A second draft of the By-Laws will be presented to the Board at an ad hoc meeting on August 3.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

A committee of three was appointed, consisting of Jim, Dorothy, with Kurt Voss assisting as time permits, to oversee the preparation of the Society's newsletter.

AD HOC MEETING

A meeting on Aug. 3, 1994 will be held at 1613 Market to discuss revised By-Laws.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 for delightful refreshment provided by Diane Olson.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McD. Kamilanovic

Dorothy McDonald K.
Secretary

Approved by,

Chairman, or alternate

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(Corrected 8/9/94)

**Ad Hoc Meeting
August 3, 1994**

**THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
OF GALVESTON, 1994**

**1613 MARKET ST.
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550**

MEMBERS

Board Present: Bill Foley, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic, Jim Nonus, Dale Olson, Randy Pace, Kurt Voss

Board Absent: Lou MacBeth, Diane Olson, Bruce Roberts, Mary Roberts

CALL TO ORDER & REVIEW OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:46 p.m.. Copies of the Minutes were distributed to members, reviewed and approved.

BY-LAWS

Randy presented for members' approval a final, computerized revision of the Society's By-Laws which he, Dorothy, & Dale had worked on at the Aug. 3 meeting. By-laws were approved.

PAYMENT OF DUES

Members agreed to pay their dues at the first General Meeting on Monday, August 8, 1994.

LIST OF BOOKS FROM THE ROSENBERG LIBRARY

Jim presented copies to members of a typescript of a 56-page reading list from the Rosenberg Library of books, magazine articles, Dyer and Stuart scrap book articles, newspaper articles, manuscripts, & notes for articles in De Bow's review and Niles' weekly register.

MAILING LIST

Randy as membership chairperson distributed to members copies of The Laffite Society Mailing List, dated 8/1/94.

SOCIETY "LETTER TO MEMBERS"

Discussion ensued on whom to send letters of invitation for membership. A tentative list was drawn up. Jim & Randy presented an attractive mail-out packet to send to prospective members which includes the Society's letter, a list of the founding officers, and a page requesting membership information, all enclosed in a letter-size envelope. The Society's logo appears on each item of enclosure. The lay-out of logo and printing on "antique white" stationery were done under Jim's auspices. Randy prepared the membership form enclosed. Members were given mail-out packets to send to individuals of their choice.

MAIL BOX PICK-UP

As membership chairperson, Randy volunteered to check periodically the postal box on 25th street. The box number is 1325; combination lock, F-E-A.

PROGRAM FOR THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING ON AUG. 8, 1994

Discussion followed on format and topics of the Aug. 8 meeting of the Society. The Board decided on the following tentative format.

1. A short business meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. during which The President will say a few words of introduction for each Board member
2. Dale will give a brief overview on the background and events that lead up to the founding of the Society.
3. Jim will discuss reading lists and research sources available to members.
4. A short question & answer period.
5. Coffee and a brief period of socialization during which Board members will greet and introduce themselves to prospective members.
6. Adjournment at 9:00 p.m.

TIME LIMIT FOR GENERAL MEETING

Time limits for the business part of the General Meeting were discussed. Members agreed to have the formal business discussed at the beginning of the period for approximately an hour, followed by the evening's program, but that the Board would remain flexible in deference to the convenience and travel needs of guest speakers. All meetings must end at 9:00 p.m. in compliance with the Rosenberg Library's regulations.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Some subjects suggested:

- 1) The Laffite treasure: did it exist?
- 2) A comparison of various pictorial representations and descriptions from historical material on what Jean Laffite looked like?
- 3) Descendants of the Laffites.
- 4) Comparisons of handwriting of Jean Laffite.
- 5) Laffite collection at the Rosenberg Library.
- 6) A computerized data base for the Society's library and research material.
- 7) Research under way on the alleged site of Laffite's "Maison Rouge."
- 8) Various types of ships used by the privateers in the early 19th century.
- 9) Upcoming field trips to sites of historical interest to the Society.
- 10) Slave Trade and the Laffites.
- 11) Special guest speakers, such as John T. Howells, Robert Vogel, Nola Mae Whittler Ross, and Sheldon M. Kindall.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dale reported he had sent in a letter announcing the first General Meeting of the Society to The Daily News.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

For quarterly meetings, the Board agreed to meet at 6:00 p.m., prior to the General Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

MEETING SITE

If attendance at the General Meetings exceeds the capacity of 22 in the McCullough Room at the Rosenberg Library, it may be necessary to change the date of future meetings to a time when the Wortham Auditorium is available. Smaller meeting rooms at the library are frequently in use.

RESEARCH - HOW TO PROCEED

Members discussed the pros and cons of how to undertake various tracks of research - whether alone or in groups, and how to organize the material so that it can eventually be accessible to everyone.

In order to tap the research sources of various libraries and institutions of learning, such as Yale University and the Smithsonian, Dale suggested that a form letter might be sent out requesting a bibliography from each source. Jim further suggested

that, eventually, a complete list of all the bibliographic entries obtained from diverse sources might be compiled for public dispensation.

COMPUTERIZED DATA

Kurt reported that the Q & A 4.0 data base system, compatible with IBM, would be his choice to organize and make accessible research material for the Society. This would include a catalogued, annotated bibliography.

HOUSING OF RESEARCH COLLECTION

Jim stated that for the present he could maintain photocopies of documents collected in his shop until a permanent, centralized site for this material could be become available.

HISTORICAL BOOKLET ON JEAN LAFFITE

Jim recommended trying to obtain an arrangement whereby copies of a popular booklet on the life of Jean Laffite written by Nola Mae Whittler Ross of New Orleans could be sold at island tourist centers. He volunteered to contact the author in New Orleans.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 9:45 p.m. for light refreshment provided by our host, Randy Pace.

Submitted by

Dorothy McD. Karilanovic
Secretary

\dk

August 8, 1994

First General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY OF GALVESTON

McCullough Room
ROSENBERG LIBRARY
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

MEMBERS

Board present: Dale Olson, President; Jim Nonus, First Vice-President; Randy Pace, Second Vice-President; Diane Olson, Third Vice-President; Dorothy McD. Karilanovic, Secretary, Kurt Voss, Archivist; Bill Foley, Coordinator of Research; Lou MacBeth, Parliamentarian.

Board absent: Bruce Roberts, Treasurer; Mary Roberts, Historian

CALL TO ORDER AND REVIEW OF MINUTES

The first General Meeting of The Laffite Society of Galveston was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Motion to approve Minutes of Aug. 3 approved. Sixteen prospective members were present, making a total of 24 persons present for this meeting, including the Board. A sign-up list was circulated.

The President introduced Board members with a short description of their duties and gave a brief explanation of the events that had led up to the founding of the Society.

Lou MacBeth explained the goals of the Society.

Jim gave a description of what the General Meetings would consist of and presented for the group's interest an extensive personal collection of potential research sources, some of which he indicated were on loan to members who wanted to read and begin research: Books, journals, samples of signatures, maps, photos, articles, reading lists. Some titles & other items as follow:

- 1) The Journal of Laffite (published by Dogwood Press)
- 2) The Saga of Jean Laffite by Theresa Hunter
- 3) Merchant Sailing Ships by David R. MacGregor
- 4) Jean Laffite-Louisiana Buccaneer by Nola Mae Whittler Ross
- 5) Jean Laffite, Gentleman Rover by Stanley C. Arthur
- 6) The Land of Laffite the Pirate (text by Ray M. thompson)
- 7) Laffite of Louisiana by Mary Devereaux
- 8) Laffite the Pirate by Lyle Saxon
- 9) The Great Stroke of Pierre Laffite by Stanley Faye
- 10) The Battle of New Orleans by Leonard V. Huber

- 11) Barthelemy Lafon-The Pirate Architect by Roger G. Kennedy
- 12) Historical Sketch of Pierre and Jean Laffite by Charles Gayarre
- 13) Arsene LeBleu & History of Lake Charles
- 14) A History of Lake Charles, Part II. Laffite and Lake Charles. Citie sentinel [sic], April, 1949.
- 15) The Firebrand Affair and Documents Relating to George Graham's Proposal to Jean Laffite for the Occupation of the Texas Coast by Gaylord Warren
- 16) Galveston Island. The Journal of Francis Sheridan 1839-1840
- 17) Kurt Voss' "Factual Jean Laffite Information" (from the files of Rosenberg Library)
- 18) Plaque of signatures for study and analysis as to authenticity
- 19) Documents - letter written on the Mina Expedition from The New York Herald, 1817.
- 20) Map of Baratania Bay
- 21) Niles' Weekly Register, extracts of letters from Robert M. Harrison, Dec. 27, 1817.
- 22) Laffite Skull by M. Roberts
- 23) Letter on "The Three Trees" submitted by Mary Roberts
- 24) Material on the "Champs d'Asile ("Field of Refuge") encampment
- 25) Catalogue of publications from Dogwood Press, consisting of subjects on East Texas and Louisiana history, by publisher, Don Marler, of Woodville, TX.

Jim also provided a list of antiquarian bookstores and others in Galveston and New Orleans where reading material on the Laffites and their era could be obtained.

DON MARLER AND THE JOURNAL OF LAFFITE

Don Marler, founder of Dogwood Press in Woodville, TX, editor and publisher of a catalogue of books on the history of East Texas and Louisiana, spoke to the group of his interest in the historical figure, Aaron Burr. He indicated he would make available to the Society a copy of a letter from Aaron Burr to the American President Jefferson discussing plans for enlisting the services of Laffite. Don had in his possession copies for sale of The Journal of Laffite, recommended as a good starting source for new members.

LETTER FROM CHUCK KEPNER TO DALE OLSON

Dale read to the group a letter from Chuck Kepner of KEPNER ASSOCIATES, INC., 2 Kenyon, Kensington, CA 94708, telling of his long-time interest in Laffite and mentioning that he had a book in progress which touches briefly on him. He had heard of the Galveston research group through Don Marler of Woodville.

BARTHELEMY LAFON MAP OF GALVESTON BAY IN 1817

Jim asked the Secretary to provide a letter in Spanish to the Secretariat of Internal Affairs in Mexico City, requesting information and, if possible, a copy of a map drawn by Barthelemy Lafon in 1817 of Galveston Bay.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Randy, serving as Treasurer, reported nine membership payments, including one life-time membership, for a total of \$470.00.

Kurt discussed plans for a computerized archive and extended annotated bibliography.

Dorothy spoke briefly about the quarterly newsletter planned.

Bill Foley made some suggestions for research by new members:

- 1) Early maps of Galveston
- 2) Various types of ships used in the 19th C.
- 3) Comparative descriptions of Jean Laffite

He asked that members who undertake research advise him of the direction of their interests so that he can coordinate the subject matter.

Diane discussed possible sites for field trips and excursions to places of historical interest in Texas and Louisiana: one-day trips to the site of the original Maison Rouge, the Sam Houston Regional Library at Liberty, several grave sites of former Laffite associates near Galveston, and possible excursions to sites in Lake Charles. More extensive trips may include New Orleans and Baratarria.

Randy explained the categories of membership to the group and provided suggestions for filling out the membership form.

The President called for questions and discussion and asked those new to the group to introduce themselves if they so desired.

There being no further business, the first General Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next General Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12 in the McCullough Room, Rosenberg Library.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McD. Karilanovic
Secretary

\dk 8/11/94

(Corrected 10/11/94)

September 12, 1994

Business and General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY OF GALVESTON

McCullough Room
ROSENBERG LIBRARY
Galveston, Texas 77550

MEMBERS & OTHERS

Board present: Jim Nonus, First Vice-President; Randy Pace, 2nd Vice-President; Dorothy McD. Karilanovic, Recording and Corresponding Secretary; Bill Foley, Coordinator of Research; Lou MacBeth, Parliamentarian.

Board absent: Dale Olson, President; Diane Olson, Third Vice-President; Kurt Voss, Archivist. Vacated positions: Treasurer & Historian.

Members-at-Large: Eva L. Fritiofson, Don Marler, Keith Poster

Guests: Trisha Keel (Speaker); Randall Matthews (Speaker); Henry Reynes; Charles Terry; Charles Kelly

Nominee present for Treasurer: Jim Earthman

CALL TO ORDER AND REVIEW OF MINUTES

A short business meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. to elect a new Treasurer and Historian, these positions having been vacated with a letter of resignation from Bruce Roberts and Mary Roberts, respectively.

Motion to install Jim Earthman as Treasurer, seconded by Bill Foley: Motion carried.

Motion to install Bernadette Foley as Historian; seconded and carried.

RESEARCH

Lou MacBeth submitted for members' interest xeroxed copies of historical information on file at The Galveston County Daily News, including photos of a bronze sculptured figure of Laffite and commemorative medals depicting a map of Galveston from the Laffite era.

Jim handed out enlarged copies he had had made of a detailed photo of the 1875 Hendricks house, no longer in existence, which had been located on the alleged site of the improvements of Jean Laffite's settlement on Industrial Blvd, formerly Water Street. He also submitted copies of a letter from Bill Reid, a direct descendant of Charles Cronea, along with a newspaper article from The Galveston Daily News, April 22, 1985, by Joel Kirkpatrick, "Time Erasing Lafitte Pirate's Grave."

TREASURER'S REPORT

Randy, serving as interim treasurer, submitted a financial report showing a balance in the Society's treasury of \$501.10.

MEMBERSHIP

Randy announced the Society now has 18 paid members, with two potential memberships pending. Dorothy mentioned that history department Chairs at Central and Ball High Schools might be interested in membership and in attending a future meeting to learn of the Society's interests which might tie in with students' history studies at local high schools.

LAFON MAP

No response to date to the Society's letter of August 9 from the Secretariat of Internal Affairs in Mexico City, inquiring about the existence of a map drawn by Lafon in 1817 purported to be in a Mexican archive, of which a copy was requested.

GROUNDS CARE AT MAISON ROUGE SITE

Jim called for assistance in clearing weed growth from the Maison Rouge site on Industrial Blvd. Bill Foley offered his help.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

GENERAL MEETING

First guest speaker, Trisha Keel, spoke to the Society about her ancestors Arsenne Le Bleu and Charles Sallier, contemporaries of Jean Laffite. She provided the group with interesting anecdotes on these two individuals and genealogical information on her family's lineage.

Second guest speaker, Randall Matthews, read from his biographical notes on his ancestors Jane Long of Bolivar and James Campbell, both familiar figures to Laffite and his times. He stated that Jane Long was supposed to have given to Sam Houston a powder horn with Laffite's name engraved on it. Randall offered to

bring to a future meeting of the Society a long poem written by Mirabeau Lamar to Jane Long during their courtship.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

* Don Marler will speak to members in October about his current research on the history and activities of contemporaries of Laffite who lived in the Neutral Zone on the Texas-Louisiana border.

* Dale Olson is scheduled to discuss his extensive research in progress on Laffite at the December meeting of the Society.

* Jim proposed to invite as a speaker at a future meeting Tony Garcia of Galveston who is a descendant of the Karankawa Indians.

* Jim mentioned he would bring in a collection of pictures, photos, artistic renderings, etc. of Jean Laffite for comparative study and discussion in connection with biographical references of Laffite's physical description and personal characteristics.

* Jim also stated he would present to the Society for comparative analysis a number of examples of the Laffite signature.

There being no further business, the General Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McD. Karilanovic
Recording Secretary

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October 10, 1994

General Meeting

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY OF GALVESTON

McCollough Room
ROSENBERG LIBRARY
Galveston, Texas 77550

MEMBERS

Board present: Jim Nonus, First Vice-President; Randy Pace, Second Vice-President; Dorothy McD. Karilanovic, Recording and Corresponding Secretary; Jim Earthman, Treasurer; Bill Foley, Coordinator of Research; Bernadette Foley, Historian; Kurt Voss, Archivist; Lou MacBeth, Parliamentarian

Board absent: Dale Olson, President (out of town); Diane Olson, Third Vice-President (out of town).

Members-at-Large present: Eva L. Fritiofson and Don Marler

GUESTS

Tim Chambers, Ernest Farrow and young daughter, Vanessa, Nelson Leissner, Randall Matthews, Charles Terry, Jeanette Ulrich.

CALL TO ORDER:REVIEW OF MINUTES

First Vice-President (FVP) Jim Nonus, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Minutes were reviewed, corrected, and approved.

RESEARCH MATERIAL

Jim Nonus offered for members' interest several books and journals (listed below) he had purchased on a recent trip to New Orleans, as well as xeroxed copies of various representations of Jean Laffite, his wife and children. One photo, described as "the only authentic picture of Jean Laffite" (in mid-life, it appeared), furnished by Gilbert J. Fortier, Jr., is in New Orleans:Facts and Legends by Raymond J. Martínez and Jack D.L. Homes, Hope Publications, Jefferson, LA, (no date given). It is intended that at the courtesy of Jim Nonus and for members' use these research

resources will be housed in a small "reading room" at 101 21st Street, #3, until such a time as permanent space can be found.

- 1) Marcel Armand: A Romance of Old Louisiana by Sallie Lee Bell.
- 2) Louisiana History. The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association.
- 3) The Louisiana Historical Quarterly, Jan., '56 (article, "Privateers of Cartagena").
- 4) The Louisiana Historical Quarterly, Jan., '40 (article, "Types of Privateer Vessels, Their Armaments and Flags in the Gulf of Mexico," by Stanley Faye).
- 5) The Louisiana Historical Quarterly, July, '32 (article, "The Last Days of Charles Gayarré").
- 6) The Pirate Lafitte and the Battle of New Orleans by Robert Tallant, 1951.
- 7) Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop (xeroxed copy of detailed descriptive material on the history and architecture of this structure).
- 8) The Story of the Spanish-American War and the Revolt in the Philippines (a well-preserved, bound, turn-of-the century edition in large format of numerous black and white photographs and color prints of vessels, fortifications, men, and armaments of this historical event of 1898).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Earthman reported that the Society's treasury now stands at \$566.10.

SOCIETY SCRAPBOOK

Jim Nonus introduced Bernadette Foley as the Society's Historian, and suggested that in this capacity she might begin assembling a "scrapbook" of material for research collected at meetings.

LETTER FROM HIGH ISLAND, TEXAS

Randy reported receipt of a letter from a woman, a resident of High Island, inviting members to visit that area and its historical environs. She also called for interest and support in preserving a certain legendary ancient oak tree in that area. A suggestion was made that she might contact the local county extension agent for advice as to how to care for the tree meanwhile.

FRENCH TRANSLATION OF PORTIONS OF LAFFITE JOURNAL

Dorothy submitted for members' research files 6 pages which she had translated from French to English, a portion of a 46-page xeroxed copy of a Laffite journal that Jim had brought to the meeting of September 12.

CLEAN-UP OF MAISON ROUGE SITE

Jim Nonus suggested that volunteers consider a date to clear away weeds and undergrowth at the Maison Rouge site on Industrial Blvd. (Water Street). Bill Foley offered to pick a date when weed-eater equipment could be available for this effort.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

FVP Jim announced Nov. 14 and Dec. 12 as dates for future meetings, suggesting that members and guests might want to make the Dec. 12 meeting into a social occasion in keeping with the holiday season. Members decided to defer decision on this until Diane Olson, in her role as coordinator of special events, could be consulted on arrangements.

NEWSLETTER

Jim announced that members of the newsletter committee would meet in the very near future to discuss contents and format.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Don Marler, Society member and publisher (Dogwood Press, Woodville, TX), was guest speaker for the evening. The focus of his talk was on the neutral zone established in 1806 -- an approximately 500,000 acre area near the Sabine River, extending south to the Gulf, between what was then Spanish territory to the west and land claimed by U.S. settlers on the east. Don spoke about the characteristics, commercial and political activities of some of Laffite's contemporaries who lived, and sometimes sought refuge, in that area. He believes that his most recent research, in comparison of dates and places, tends to convince him more and more of the authenticity of The Laffite Journal by "John Lafflin," (Laffite's pseudonym) supposedly published 107 years following Laffite's death.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at about 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McD. Karilanovic
Recording & Corresponding Secretary

November 14, 1994

General Meeting

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY OF GALVESTON

McCollough Room
ROSENBERG LIBRARY
Galveston, Texas 77550

MEMBERS

Board present: Jim Nonus, First Vice-President; Randy Pace, Second Vice-President; Dorothy McD. Karilanovic, Recording & Corresponding Secretary; Jim Earthman, Treasurer; Bill Foley, Coordinator of Research; Bernadette Foley, Historian.

Board absent: Dale Olson, President (out of town); Diane Olson, Third Vice-President (out of town); Lou MacBeth, Parliamentarian, Kurt Voss, Archivist.

Members-at-Large: Eva L. Fritiofson, Don Marler, Keith Poster

Guests: Andy Hall, Charles Kelly, Patrick Kuhns, Randall Matthews, Charles Terry

CALL TO ORDER: REVIEW OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the First Vice-President. Minutes were not reviewed at meeting time.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Randy issued copies of a revised membership list. Paid members are now 17 in number. Three new memberships are pending.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dorothy gave out xeroxed copies of two articles on Laffite and Gulf Coast history, recently published in Bay Watcher news, a local mainland publication.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Earthman reported the balance in the Society's treasury remains at \$566.10.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Bernadette distributed to members xeroxed copies of an article on Laffite's legacy in southern Louisiana, published in a recent issue of Southern Living.

STEWART TITLE CO. ARCHIVES

Patrick Kuhns, prospective member, gave a report of the historical resources available in the archives of the Stewart Title Company in Galveston, available to the public. He presented for members' interest a xeroxed copy of a document dated 1845 from the title company's archives concerning a deed of sale of slaves to a certain Samuel Laffite.

RESEARCH DATA - ORGANIZATION OF

FVP Jim Nonus outlined a data collecting procedure by which members might start a record of their research interests using index cards which they would submit regularly at meetings. This would serve as a means not only to collect information but to prevent overlap and duplication of research effort.

Members were asked to each discuss their ideas for research. Certain topics were offered for joint study for those who wished to assist others.

Jim stated he hoped that the end result of the over-all effort by members in taking up a research interest would help fill in the "gaps" of information in the on-going historical narrative.

COMPUTER HIGHWAY

Keith suggested that at some point the Society get on a computerized "information highway" for world-wide retrieval of historical information of interest to the group.

Jim Nonus reported that Dale Olson is looking into the possibility of producing a computerized "definitive sketch" based on all available pictorial images of Jean Laffite.

NEW FILM ON LAFFITE

Charles Kelly mentioned a new film being produced by a son of Mr. George Mitchell on the life of Jean Laffite, based on a considerable amount of research. The film is to be a regular feature in the Seaport Museum area at Pier 21 on Harborside Drive. Charles stated he would try and arrange for the producer to speak to our group.

DON MARLER - LAFFITE CONNECTION

Don Marler said he would try and arrange for some members of a Laffite family to speak to the Society.

CARIBBEAN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL ORGANIZATION

Don Marler brought in a letter for translation dated Nov. 6 from LePecq, France, sent to him at Dogwood Press, from a French historical group. The group, founded in 1901, is a member of the French Federation of Genealogy and is associated with a majority of other genealogical Associations. Their membership consists of 300 persons and Associations and their interests center around the islands and old French possessions "bathed by the Caribbean" - the history of the Antilles, and of families who were established and who lived there. They learned of the "Laffite journal" through an American member of their Association and are offering to exchange a copy of an article they have on Laffite for a copy of the Journal of Jean Laffite: the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story available through Dogwood Press. Included with the letter is an extensive list (in French) of articles, research theses, conference titles, etc. available through their organization, along with subscriber information to a monthly bulletin (\$34.00 a year). (List of titles, other info & translation available through Laffite Society secretary.)

DECEMBER MEETING OF LAFFITE SOCIETY

Jim announced that the Dec. 12 meeting of the Society will be held at PIRATES' ALLEY on 101 21st St. Members and guests will gather to celebrate the holiday season.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by

Dorothy McD. Karilanovic
Recording & Corresponding Secretary

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Revised 2/9/95

December 13, 1994

General Meeting

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY OF GALVESTON
Pirates' Alley
101 21st St., #3
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

MEMBERS

Board present: Dale Olson, President; FVP Jim Nonus; SVP Randy Pace; TVP Diane Olson; Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanic; Treasurer, Jim Earthman; Coordinator of Research, Bill Foley; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Archivist, Kurt Voss

Board absent: Lou MacBeth, Parliamentarian (out of town)

Members-at-Large: Margaret Earthman, Eva L. Fritiofson, Kathleen I. Hink, Charles Kelly, Patrick Kuhns, Randall Matthews, Keith Poster, and Charles Terry

Guests: Dee Collins, Curtis Cowan, Sheldon M. Kindall, Joanna Poster, Judy Tramonte, Will Zapalac

CALL TO ORDER

The General Meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by the President, followed by words of welcome to members, acknowledgement of guests and thanks to those who had carried on the business of the Society during his absence.

MINUTES

The Secretary distributed copies of the Minutes to officers for their brief review. Minutes were accepted as presented.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Diane spoke about tentative plans under way for an all-day excursion the latter part of January to see the Price Daniels collection on Laffite at the library and museum in Liberty, Texas. Suggested activities include a talk on what's available at the library, a tour of some of the exhibits in the museum, and lunch or dinner. Exact date to be determined as soon as winter schedule at the library can be confirmed.

MEMBERSHIP

Randy gave out updated copies of the Society's membership list to officers. Membership now stands at a total of 24. Members were asked to contact those on their prospective lists who had not replied to initial invitations in order to avoid the expense of additional mailings.

RESEARCH

The President called for members to present information on new research at the January meeting of the Society.

LAFON MAP

Dorothy reported on a letter in Spanish dated Nov. 22 from the General Archive of the Nation of Mexico, a response to one she had written on behalf of the President and the Society on August 9 inquiring about the existence of a map of Galveston Bay drawn by the architect-privateer Barthelemy Lafon in 1817. The reply from the General Director, Patricia Galeana, stated that such a map does exist in their Archive, but it is dated 1810, not 1817, and is unsigned. An invitation to visit the Archive was extended to members, along with offers of assistance for further research.

There being no further business, the General Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m., to be followed by a special lecture given by Dale on Computer Enhanced Images of Jean Laffite. Spiritous libations and Holiday refreshments were provided by Charles Terry of The Tremont House & Bernadette & Bill Foley. Thanks from the Society to Jim Nonus for allowing members to use the attractive setting of his shop, Pirates' Alley for this special meeting.

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SPECIAL LECTURE

Following the General Meeting, Dale Olson presented a lecture based on the results of his and his brother Ken Olson's research using 25 two dimensional measurements of 9 facial images of Jean Laffite. The images, enhanced by computer scanner, consisted mostly of drawings representing Laffite's years in New Orleans, but also included two Daguerreotypes from the museum collection in Liberty, presumably from a later period of his life. While no absolute conclusions could be drawn at this time as to a "definitive" portrait of Laffite, the quest for "truth" and the process of analysis required in comparing the information Dale presented on the images proved interesting and enjoyable for the audience.

Submitted by: Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording Secretary