

MINUTES
January 8, 2002
General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
The Eiband Gallery
2201 Post Office Street
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeff Modzelewski; Second Vice-President (Membership), Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President (Special Events), Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President (office vacant); Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Archivist (office vacant); Coordinator-of-Research, Kileen Prather

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: R. Dale Olson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Stephen Broadstone; George Najarian; Ginny Roberts

VISITORS: John Schaumburg; Chris Smith

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. President Jeff Modzelewski extended condolences on behalf of the Society to Secretary Dorothy Karilanovic and to Parliamentarian Diane Olson in acknowledgment of the recent deaths of beloved family members, and also mentioned that the wife of former member Charles Kelly, glass jewelery artist Dee Collins Kelly, had also passed away.

MINUTES

Minutes of the November, 2001 meeting were not read to for approval since, in order to meet a deadline, they had already been submitted for publication in the February, 2002 issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jerry Eubank submitted her written report of The Laffite Society's finances showing an ending balance as of January 8, 2002, of \$3,122.90.

MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. Eubank gave out membership renewal letters to those present and stated that reminder letters, along with up-dated membership lists, would also be sent out to others. A up-dated membership list prepared by Membership Chairman, Mike Eubank, dated Jan. 7, 2002, was also given out to those present this date.

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES

Copies of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, Vol. VIII, No. 1, February, 2002, were given out to members present, the remainder to be mailed.

A suggestion was offered to obtain a new quote of printing costs for the publication.

ROBERT C. VOGEL TO SPEAK

The President announced that Laffite Society member, author and researcher Robert C. Vogel, is scheduled to speak to members on March 12 on the subject of trips made by the Laffites to Washington, D.C. in 1815 and 1818.

President Jeff Modzelewski also mentioned that, according to Robert Vogel, Professor Tom Watson of McNeese University in Louisiana will have published sometime in 2002 a book-length history of Lake Charles, Louisiana.

NEWS ARTICLES FROM LA

The President reported that Member-at-Large Neil Tytoni of Meraux, LA had sent for those interested 1) a news clipping from *The New Orleans Times Picayune*, June 1, 2002, describing the celebration by a Laffite society in Louisiana featuring a battlefield demonstration and enactment of the Battle at Chalmette in 1815; 2) photos showing New Orleans' Jazzland Park, and 3) a photocopy showing Dominique Youx's famous epitaph in a New Orleans cemetery.

COINS FROM THE TEXAS GULF COAST

Press Director Dave Roberts showed members several coins recovered some years ago by a member of his family along the lower Texas Gulf Coast. The coins dated from the 1600s to the 1800s.

OLSON BOOK CHAPTER

Advisory Board Member and Ex-Officio President R. Dale Olson read to members in attendance this date his chapter *Pirates and Privateers*, to appear in a book entitled *THE FRENCH IN TEXAS* published by The University of Texas Press at Austin, Texas in 2003.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

3/6/02
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FEBRUARY 12, 2002

No meeting held due to Mardi Gras festivities.

MINUTES
March 12, 2002
General Meeting
The Laffite Society
2021 Strand
"The Trolley Stop"
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeff Modzelewski; Second Vice-President (Membership), Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President (Special Events), Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian, Jean L. Epperson

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President (office vacant); Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator-of-Research, Kileen Prather; Archivist (office vacant); Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson; Robert C. Vogel; Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Beth & Ronald Austin; Vivienne Bass; Stephen Broadstone; Joe and Judy Dolfi; Carroll Lewis, Jr.; George Najarian; Richard Rasche; Ginny Roberts; Norman & Margie Sachnik; Kathleen Taylor Vogel; Betty Wilson

GUEST: Karen Mahoney

CALL TO ORDER

President Jeff Modzelewski called the general meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., followed by his announcement of 1) a change in location for future meetings of The Laffite Society, now to be held at "The Trolley Stop," at 2021 Strand in Galveston; and 2) a reminder to members to send in their dues of renewal for 2002.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY ROBERT C. VOGEL

Visiting Advisory Board Member and Laffite researcher and author Robert C. Vogel presented a talk on travel undertaken by the Laffite brothers, Pierre and Jean, to Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and New York on December 17, 1814, and again possibly in early July of 1815, at which time Jean Laffite visited Washington, D.C. One of Mr. Vogel's conclusions on the purpose of these trips was that, through their contacts with government officials on these occasions, the Laffites were seeking financial compensation for their activities as "secret agents" against Spain. It is not known whether or not their efforts were successful.

MINUTES

Minutes of the January 8, 2002 meeting were approved as read to members by the Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As stated in Treasurer Jerry Eubank's report, beginning balance in The Laffite Society account on February 12, 2002 was \$3,652.07. After disbursements and deposits, the balance on March 12, 2002 was \$3,832.79.

CUBAN TRAVEL VIDEO

The President mentioned that he had written a thank-you note in Spanish to Alejandro Hartmann of the island of Cuba who had sent him a copy of his book in French, published in Barcelona, entitled *The French in Baracoa*. Further, according to E-mail communication with Gary Fretz, Laffite researcher and Member-at-Large in Florida, Mr. Hartmann had indicated his intentions of visiting Mr. Fretz to show him his travel video work on Cuba.

PAM KEYES TO SPEAK

Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson announced that Advisory Board Member and long-time Laffite researcher Pam Keyes will visit Galveston April 9 to speak to the Society on her current research.

OCTOBER HUMANITIES CONFERENCE

Robert C. Vogel mentioned for members' interest the upcoming Gulf, Southern History, and Humanities Conference to be held in Galveston at The Hilton Galveston Island Resort October 17-19, 2002. Mr. Vogel indicated that he might present a talk on filibusters and piracy at this meeting, and that other members of the Society may also want to participate. History professor Dr. Tom Watson, formerly of McNeese University in Lake Charles, LA, will be a commentator.

NEW DRAMATIC WORK ON LAFFITE

An announcement was made of a new play on the Laffites by authors in St. Augustine, Texas,, possibly to debut April 15. No other information available at this time.

KUDOS TO OLSONS

The President extended thanks on behalf of himself and the Society to Advisory Board Member, Ex-Officio President, and Charter Member of The Laffite Society R. Dale Olson, and to Laffite Society Parliamentarian and Charter Member Diane Olson for their generous offer to provide new meeting space at their building on 2021 Strand for future meetings and activities of The Laffite Society.

VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks were extended to Kathy Modzelewski and Joe and Judy Dolfi for refreshments provided for the evening. The President also called for others to volunteer for this courtesy..

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the general meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

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MINUTES
April 9, 2002
General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
2021 Strand
"The Trolley Stop"
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeff Modzelewski; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Coordinator-of-Research, Kilcen Prather; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson; Pam Keyes; Robert Looper; Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Beth and Ron Austin; Stephen Broadstone; Joe and Judy Dolfi; Sybil Marler Don Peak; Richard Prather; Richard Rasche; Ginny Roberts; Norman and Margie Sachnik; Betty Wilson

GUEST: Jim Nonus

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order with a welcome to visiting Laffite Advisory Board Member and long-time researcher Robert Looper from Golden Meadow, LA.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Advisory Board Member Pam Keyes from Miami, OK presented a talk entitled "Sleuthing Laffite." One focus of Ms. Keyes' report was on her recent research of documents in the New Orleans Collection of that city, relative to Jean Laffite's association with map-maker Arsène LaTour, lawyer, Edward Livingston, and privateer captain Vincent Gambi who in 1814 was said to have carried out the execution of a man named DeFerrier on the latter's doorstep at 620 Ursuline in New Orleans, purportedly commissioned by the Laffites

Ms. Keyes also reported on her observation of three samples of Jean Laffite's signature recently viewed at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, TX, appearing all to have been made by the same hand. During this time she also observed that certain other documents before 1807 appeared to have been written with a crow quill and others following this year, with a steel nib, suggesting, in her opinion, that these documents are genuine writings of Jean Laffite.

Perhaps most curiously, Ms. Keyes says, while at The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, she had noted attached to one of the pages in the original Laffite journal, two newspaper clippings referring to Amelia Island, Florida. Ms. Keyes further stated that at first this finding seemed an enigma to her, since to her knowledge no one had ever connected Amelia Island with Laffite previously. Subsequently, following further search, she was able, in her words, to ". . . place Laffite's ship, the *Jupiter*, there . . . at least two different times, unloading cargo" - a finding, in her opinion, which seemed to lend further credence to the authenticity of the Laffite journal because of the unexpected inclusion of the two newspaper clippings in the journal.

Ms. Keyes, a Laffite researcher for over 27 years, was a member of the original Laffite research organization known as The Laffite Study Group formed in 1975, of which she served for two years as Editor of the group's newsletter. She is a former newspaper reporter and portrait photographer, and is currently the owner/operator of Pam Keyes Imaging, Digital Photographic Restoration Service.

MINUTES

Following the Special Presentation, Minutes of the March 12 meeting were approved as read to members by the Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jerry Eubank's written report of disbursements and deposits showed a balance in The Laffite Society account of \$3,801.79.

SPECIAL EVENT TRIP

Editor-of-Publications Don Marler, long-time Laffite researcher, author, editor, publisher, and proprietor of Dogwood Press, Hemphill, TX, and his wife and editorial associate Sybil Marler, extended an invitation to members to visit their woodland home in Hemphill, TX, with a possible side trip to one of certain historical sites in the area, such as Sabine Town, St. Augustine, TX, Nacogdoches, and Nachitoches. After discussion, members agreed on dates for the trip as Thursday, May 16 through Saturday, May 18. Third Vice-President and Special Events Chairman Kathy Modzelewski offered to research hotel and travel information to send out to members via the Internet.

ARCHIVES

President Jeff Modzelewski called for volunteers to help move the Society's archives from The Eiband Gallery at 2201 Post Office to the new meeting site in The Trolley Stop building at 2021 Strand. Member Joe Dolfi offered to use his truck for the removal to take place on Sunday, April 14.

Discussion followed on future plans for storage of the Society's archives and on a future, permanent meeting space in The Trolley Stop building,, to be decided in due course at the discretion of owners of the building, Laffite Society members Dale and Diane Olson.

SIGN FOR NEW MEETING SITE

After discussion, a motion was passed to have an historically appropriate sign crafted with the name of The Laffite Society, eventually to be placed on the Trolley Stop building, at a site to be determined.

NEW OFFICERS FOR 2002

Members were asked to consider nominees for office to be voted on in July of this year.

CHANGE OF MEETING DATE AND TIME

Discussion followed on a change of the Society's meeting date from the second Tuesday of the month to the second Thursday, and a change of meeting time from 6:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. A final decision for this change is deferred until after the May 14th meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The President extended thanks to Joe and Judy Dolfi, Beth and Ron Austin, and Norman and Margie Sachnik for the evening's refreshments.

MEETING ADJOURNED

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

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

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MINUTES
May 14, 2002
General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
2021 Strand
"The Trolley Stop"
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeff Modzelewski; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President (office vacant); Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Coordinator-of-Research, Kileen Prather

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS: Jean L. Epperson; R. Dale Olson; Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Vivienne Bass; Ann and Harry Forester; George Najarian Richard Prather; Betty Wilson

CALL TO ORDER:

The President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., expressing words of concern on behalf of The Laffite Society for the health and speedy recovery of friend of the Society Sheldon Kindall. A welcome was also extended to Ann and Harry Forester.

MINUTES

The Minutes of April 9 were approved as read to members by the Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report was available at meeting time.

LAKE CHARLES LAFFITE MARKER

Laffite Society Historian and Advisory Board Member Jean L. Epperson reported that after many months of delay and uncertainty as to outcome a Jean Laffite historical marker had been placed on the lake front at Lake Charles May 3, 2002 during the annual celebration of the Contrabandistas or Lake Charles Buccaneers.

Information for the historical marker, the only one of its kind dedicated to Jean Laffite in the state of Louisiana, was researched, written and presented gratis by Ms. Epperson. Funding for forging, placement and erection of the marker was shared by both the Buccaneer Society of Lake Charles and The Laffite Society of Galveston, the former contributing toward the project \$1,000.00, and the latter, \$300.00.

ON-GOING RESEARCH DISCUSSION

Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson made available for members' interest the following items: 1) a photo of the house of Louis Ferrière in New Orleans showing the steps where he was assassinated by Vincent Gambi, an associate of the Laffite brothers 2) Vincent Gambi's discharge papers dated March 16, 1815 3) A copy of the legal procedure for the emancipation of slaves and information on where emancipated slave lists can be found.

SUNKEN TREASURE

The Secretary passed around to members a news clipping from *The Houston Chronicle, Sun., November 4, 2001*, an account by a Trinity River guide for the Chambers-Liberty Navigation District reporting on a possible sunken ship believed to have been wrecked in the 1800s. Location of the wreck is thought to be at the edge of little known Lake Miller, off the Trinity River, about 35 miles east of Houston. The ship is said by some to have belonged to Jean Laffite. The article includes commentaries by LS members Jean L. Epperson and Robert C. Vogel. An investigation to confirm the existence of the wreck is due to begin this summer according to Steve Hoyt, Texas marine archeologist of Chambers County in Austin.

The article was donated to the Society's archives by Member-at-Large Richard Prather.

SIGN-UP LIST FOR REFRESHMENTS

A list was circulated inviting members to sign up for provision of refreshments at the monthly meetings.

MEETING ADJOURNED

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

Submitted by,

Dorothy L. Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

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MINUTES
June 11, 2002
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
"The Trolley Stop"
2021 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President: Jeffrey Modzelewski; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President (office vacant); Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator of Research, Kileen Prather; Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD: Jean L Epperson; Robert Dale Olson; Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ron and Beth Austin; Jim Nonus; Richard Rasche; Ginny Roberts; Norman Sachnik

GUEST: Sheldon Kindall

CALL TO ORDER

President Jeff Modzelewski called the general meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the May 14 meeting were approved as read by the Secretary, with one correction.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jerry Eubank presented written financial reports as follows: Ending balance for May 14, 2002, \$3,911.79; ending balance for June 11, 2002, \$3,971.79.

CHANGE OF MEETING DATE

Following discussion, motion made by R. Dale Olson, seconded by Jim Nonus, to change meeting date to the third Tuesday of the month. Motion approved. A written reminder of the date change will be mailed to members in due course.

LAFFITE NATIONAL MARKER AT LAKE CHARLES

Advisory Board member and Historian Jean L. Epperson reported on a copy of a letter she had received dated May 14, 2002 from Randy Roach, Mayor of the City of Lake Charles, to Robert Hennigan, District Engineer, Administration, State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development of Lake Charles. The letter stated that the city of Lake Charles had requested that the Jean Laffite National Marker recently placed on the Lake front at Lake Charles, LA, May 3, 2002, during the annual celebration of the Lake Charles Buccaneer Society, be removed to another location along Prien Lake Road at the eastbound approach to the Contraband Bayou Bridge. This decision was opposed by the Lake Charles Buccaneer Society, and the marker has consequently been removed and is currently in the custody of Ms. Epperson for safe keeping, pending further decision as to its placement.

LAFFITE NEWS GROUP

The President reported on comments by several members regarding their difficulty in accessing and subscribing on-line to The Laffite Society news group. Repeat instructions were again stated on how to subscribe and unsubscribe according to those given in a written statement by Second Vice-President (Membership Chairman) Mike Eubank.

SIGNAGE FOR TROLLEY STOP

The President reported that plans are still underway for a semi-permanent Laffite Society sign to be placed at the Trolley Stop building. R. Dale Olson and he have saved to a computer file a good copy of the Laffite signature and Society logo for the use of a printer or graphic designer. The President called for ideas and comments on these plans. Member-at-Large Jim Nonus proposed forming a sign committee for further discussion

POSSIBLE LAFFITE DESCENDANT AND CUBAN VIDEOIST HARTMANN

President Jeff Modzelewski mentioned that he had received an e-mail letter from Ft. Lauderdale Laffite Society member Gary Fretz stating that history author and Cuban videoist Alejandro Hartmann's request for a visa to visit the U.S. had been approved by the U.S. Government, but that his visa has been put on hold due to concerns of terrorism arising from the September 11 bombing in New York City.

PLAYBILL FOR NEW LAFFITE STAGE PLAY

The President inquired if any member who participated in the recent field trip to Hemphill and St. Augustine, Tx. May 16-19, 2002 might have obtained a program copy of the play on Laffite presented recently in San Augustine, TX, which members had attended. The Society would like to have a copy for its archive.

NEW OFFICERS FOR AUG. 2002-JULY, 2004

A slate of nominees for officers was presented and read aloud to members present by Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski. A list of these nominees will be sent out to members, to be included in the announcement of the date change for Society meetings, and voting will take place on the third Tuesday of July.

ARCHIVES

The President called for volunteers to help sort and log in material for The Laffite Society archive.

BEST SELLING AUTHOR AND LAFFITE SOCIETY MEMBER JEFF ABBOTT

The President reported he had received information that best-selling and Agatha and Macavity award-winning author and Laffite Society member Jeff Abbott of Austin, TX has written a new book, a murder mystery described as a "gripping tale of greed and betrayal," about buried treasure and a desperate, pirate-like individual who thinks he is a descendant of Jean Laffite. The novel, entitled *Black Jack Point*, was published by Onyx, September 3, 2002.

NEW TREASURE TROVE OF WAR OF 1812 HISTORY

According to the President, Laffite Society Member-at-Large Neil Titone of Meraux, LA forwarded to the Society a photo copy of an article from *The Times Picayne*, *Weds., January 9, 2002*, which focused on the acquisition in September of 2001 by The New Orleans Collection in New Orleans, LA, of an important new collection of papers on the War of 1812. The collection, originally assembled by William Cook, a Tennessee executive and historian, consists of papers almost 200 years old. According to the article, this addition to The New Orleans Collection has made it a leading center for research on Andrew Jackson, the War of 1812 and the Battle of New Orleans, and this formerly inaccessible material is now available to scholars and the public for the first time. The article will be entered in the Society's archive.

NEW BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL

The President reported on a request from Christine Lampa of Riverside, CA, to trade an annual membership of her bi-monthly journal *No Quarter* for issues of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*. The publication focuses on meetings, events, and festivals on "all things piratical." The President stated that the Society would follow through on her request.

LAFFITE GENEALOGICAL RECORDS FROM CHURCH SOURCES

Member-at-Large Gary Fretz of Ft. Lauderdale, FL sent to the Society via e-mail an extensive list of birth dates and names for descendants of Pierre and Jean Laffite, Catarina and Maria Villars and Adelaide Maselari, and others, which he had retrieved from the "Sacramental Records of New Orleans." on a recent trip to that city. Gary asks for comments and additional information from members to help clarify the complex and often puzzling concentration of genealogical information allegedly associated with the famous pirate duo. Copies of this information were made available for members' interest.

Mr. Fretz also included in his mailing for "history buffs" an account of some very interesting historical origins of customs and sayings attributed to life in the 1500s.

HEMPHILL FIELD TRIP

The President commented on the Society's recent special event "field trip" to visit the home and Dogwood Press printing facilities of the Society's Editor-of-Publications & writer/publisher of Texas/Louisiana history Don Marler and his wife Sybil Marler on May 16-19 of this year. The Marlers received the travelers with great hospitality in their spacious woodland home on Toledo Bend and those attending came away from their pleasant "late night musings" with refreshing memories and a renewed sense of interest in the Society's achievements and in ideas for research. At least sixteen members went on the trip and visited several historical sites nearby - Milam, San Augustine, and Nacogdoches, TX.

BOOK GIFT FROM EZEKIAL HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

R. Dale Olson and Diane Olson presented a book entitled *Restoring Texas* by Michael McCullar to the Society for its archive, a gift from Betty Oglesby of the Cullen Chapter of the Ezekial Historical Foundation in San Augustine, TX. The book was presented during the recent field trip to that area on May 16-19, 2002. Mr. Olson requested that the Secretary send a letter of thanks for this gift, which the Secretary duely noted.

ON-GOING RESEARCH DISCUSSION IN LIEU OF SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Advisory Board member and dedicated Laffite researcher Dr. Reginald Wilson continued with his discussion on his research to confirm whether Pierre Laffite was buried in Dzidzantun or Dzilam de Bravo, Yucatan.

In relation to Dr. Wilson's comments, Secretary Dorothy Karilanovic reported on her recent translation, requested by Dr. Wilson, of an article in Spanish by Lillian Paz Avila in a publication called *Unicornia, Sun., February 24, 2002*. The author gives an account of her interviews in Spanish with various persons in the Dzilam de Bravo area of Yucatan who commented on claims of descent from the Laffites of various local individuals, on the history of the changing burial sites through the years of supposed Laffite remains, including the discovery many years ago of a "large long bone" (a femur) purported to have belonged to Jean Laffite

In addition, more to the quest of confirming a burial site for Pierre, the Secretary commented on Mexican historian Ignacio Rubio Mañe's statement made in an article he wrote in Spanish in 1940 entitled *Los Lafitte, famosos piratas y sus últimos días en Yucatán*, published in *Boletín de la Sociedad Mexicana de Geografía y Estadística T. 54*, a copy of which Laffite researcher and author Robert C. Vogel had forwarded to Dr. Wilson. In the article, on page 453, which Dr. Wilson asked the Secretary to read and translate, Mañe said that Pierre had been buried "in the parochial church in the town of Dzilam, 4 leagues to the south of the port of the same name," there being no mention at this time of a burial in the churchyard at Santa Clara de Dzidzantun in Dzilam, as some sources have claimed.

SIGN-UP FOR REFRESHMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The President commented that no one had committed to helping with refreshments for a specific meeting in the future except for a few persons "as needed." Thanks and appreciation were extended to Betty Wilson and Jean Epperson and to R. Dale Olson and Diane Olson for providing food and drink respectively for the evening's meeting.

THE PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

On the eve of the new term approaching, President Jeff Modzelewski presented some thoughts for reflection. He spoke of his renewed enthusiasm for the on-going research goals and projects of the Society and of his hopes that members will not only want to continue their support and participation in the meetings as listeners, but would want to contribute their thoughts, talents and time in other ways, such as in the planning of programs, provision of refreshments, writing for *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, researching accommodations for field trips, creating itineraries for travel, arranging car pools for single travelers, and offering themselves for office when new terms begin.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the general meeting of June 11, 2002 adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk:6/30/02

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MINUTES
General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
July 16, 2002
THE TROLLEY STOP
2021 Strand
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeffrey Modzelewski; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President (office vacant); Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Archivist (office vacant); Coordinator-of-Publications, Kileen Prather

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson; R. Dale Olson; Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Stephen Broadstone; Jim Nonus; Richard Rasche; Betty Wilson

VISITORS: Brett Foley; Marcus Hawthorne

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at approximately 6:32 p.m.

MINUTES

On motion by Jim Nonus, seconded by Dave Roberts, Minutes of June 11 were approved as read by the Secretary to members present.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in The Laffite Society account as of today's date was \$4,031.79, according to a verbal statement by Treasurer Jerry Eubank.

OLD BUSINESS

COPIES OF MINUTES TO MEMBERS WITH E-MAIL ADDRESS

Second Vice-President Mike Eubank suggested for consideration that a copy of monthly Minutes be forwarded each month by e-mail to members having e-mail addresses for the purpose of keeping such members up-to-date on current Laffite Society matters and on-going research discussion. As is customary, however, all members will continue to receive six-month summaries of Minutes included in their subscriptions to *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.

The President also suggested that he would like to receive a copy from the Secretary of the Minutes from the previous month's meeting to serve as a reminder of unfinished items to discuss and matters deferred for action.

NEW MEETING DATE

President Jeff Modzelewski reminded members present to inform others of the change in meeting date of The Laffite Society from the second Tuesday to the third Tuesday of the month, although all members will have received a written notification as well.

PUBLICATION, *NO QUARTER GIVEN*

The President stated that Editor-of-Publications Don Marler had forwarded to him three issues for the Society's archive of the publication *No Quarter Given*. In an arrangement with the editor and art director, Christine Lampe, of Riverside, CA, the Society will exchange with them copies of *The Laffite Society Chronicles* for 2002 and 2003, for copies of their publication *No Quarter Given*. A list was made available at this meeting of the special publications and back issues of this newsletter, available for order.

NEW BOOK ON PIRATES

As reported by the President, Editor-of-Publications Don Marler had also forwarded a notice of publication printed in *No Quarter Given* of a new non-fiction book, a collection of personal accounts "written by actual pirate captives." The book, entitled *Captured by Pirates* consists of "firsthand accounts of murder and mayhem on the high seas," and is edited by John Richard Stephens. A copy of the advertisement of the book was made available at the lectern for members' interest.

THE *CHRONICLES*

Press Director Dave Roberts suggested that the Society contact the archivist at the History Center at The Rosenberg Library in Galveston regarding the library's possible interest in receiving copies of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.

CUBAN AUTHOR ALEJANDRO HARTMANN

President Jeff Modzelewski reported that Member-at-Large Gary Fretz had advised him on about July 11 or July 12 that history writer and "expert on Taino Indian culture" Alejandro Hartmann had received approval of his visa to permit his travel from Cuba to the U.S., where he is hoping to pursue his studies on Laffite history.

YUCATÁN CLASSIFIED AD

The President reported that he had posted a notice in mid-June, 2002, in Spanish on the web site of the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán in Mérida, in an attempt to attract interest in The Laffite Society.

POSSIBLE BOOK SIGNING

According to the President, he and Third Vice-President Kathy Modzelewski have been in negotiation with author and Laffite Society member Jeff Abbott to arrange a book signing in Galveston for his Laffite related fictional work entitled *Black Jack Point*.

NEW BUSINESS

DONATION OF PHOTOCOPIER

The President announced that he and his wife, Third Vice-President Kathy Modzelewski, had donated their tabletop photocopier to the Society where it will be available for members' use during meetings for the purpose of copying Laffite related handouts. Members were also asked not to take for their personal use the one copy of handouts available at the lectern, but to use this to make copies before, after meetings, and during the refreshment break.

SIGN-UP SHEET FOR REFRESHMENTS

The President called for a "standing volunteer" to coordinate provision of food and drink for the monthly meetings. Member-at-Large Betty Williams suggested a trial period of about two months during which members in regular attendance each agree to bring the same food or drink item each month.

POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR OFFICERS

Prior to entering a vote for new officers, the President announced a copy available at the lectern for those interested in job descriptions for both incoming and outgoing officers.

VOTING ON OFFICERS FOR 2002-2004

The President reported that a notice had been sent to members with the nominated slate of officers for August, 2002 through July, 2004. Four members had returned proxy votes, three of whom approved all nominees, and one voting for all save one nominee.

By vote taken this date, all nominees were approved as presented on the slate. In addition, Advisory Board Member Pam Keyes of Miami, OK was nominated from the floor for the position of Coordinator of Research, receiving a vote of approval from all members present at this date's meeting.

21st GULF SOUTH HISTORY AND HUMANITIES CONFERENCE

As announced by the President, members R. Dale Olson and Jean L. Epperson will speak at the Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference scheduled in Galveston for October 17-19, 2002. The Laffite segment of the conference talks will be moderated by Dr. Tom Watson, retired professor of history from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA. The program will be chaired by Gene Smith of Texas Christian University, a filibuster/naval history expert.

Laffite author and Advisory Board Member Robert C. Vogel has suggested having a Laffite related activity scheduled for this event, such as an open house in the Laffite meeting room at The Trolley Stop, 2021 Strand, or a tour of the Maison Rouge site, the alleged location of Jean Laffite's "fort" at 1417 Harborside Drive, in Galveston.

MAP ASSOCIATION MEETING

According to Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson, Robert Schaadt, director of the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, TX had asked him if the Laffite Society could provide a speaker for a map association meeting to be held in Galveston in the spring of 2003.

MAISON ROUGE ON THE GALVESTON HOMES TOUR, 2003

The President reported that Shanna Risinger of The Galveston Historical Foundation had mentioned an interest in including the Maison Rouge site in The Galveston Homes Tour for May of 2003.

PARKS BOARD EVENT OF AUGUST, 2003

Visitor to The Laffite Society and new projects coordinator for the Galveston Parks Board, Brett Foley, spoke to members present about plans underway for a "Pirates in Paradise Festival" to be held in August of 2003. Mr. Foley was accompanied by Mr. Marcus Hawthorne whom he introduced as an associate of the Parks Board. The event will be a three-day celebration featuring live entertainment, food, arts and crafts, and family activities. A focal point of the event will be the awarding of scholarships for schools of their choice to students throughout Texas who have written the best essays on the Great Storm of 1900, concentrating on the "heroes, survivors and re-builders" of this devastating event which took the lives of over 6,000 Galvestonians.

Mr. Foley invited The Laffite Society to consider participation in the event to provide scholarly and educational viewpoints..

CHRONICLE WRITE-UP ON WILLIAM SIMPSON

The President called for a volunteer, or several, to consider preparing a memorial write-up for Mr. William ("Bill") Dallam Simpson who passed away Saturday, June 22, 2002. The article, to be included in *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, would be in recognition of Mr. Simpson's extensive knowledge of the provenance of the controversial *Journal of Jean Laffite* since it came to his attention in the late 1950s.

LAFFITE SOCIETY WEB PAGE PHOTOS

Second Vice-President Mike Eubank, news group coordinator for the Society, proposed having photos of the new board of officers for 2002-2004 posted on The Laffite Society Web page.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Due to time constraints, further "new business" of The Laffite Society was deferred until August. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE 9+LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk:8/11/02

files

MINUTES
General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
August 20, 2002
THE TROLLEY STOP
2021 Strand
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeffrey Modzelewski; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson; R. Dale Olson; Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Judy and Joe Dolfi; Richard Rasche; Betty Wilson

GUEST: Sheldon Kindall

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. following the customary, brief gathering for refreshments.

MINUTES

Minutes of the July 16 meeting were approved as read to members by the Secretary with one correction.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Treasurer Jerry Eubank who was out of town, the President read from the Treasurer's report, reporting a balance in the Laffite Society account of \$4, 023.87.

MAISON ROUGE SITE ON HOMES TOUR OF 2003

R. Dale Olson reported that the Maison Rouge site at 1417 Harborside Drive, Galveston, alleged location of Jean Laffite's fort from 1817 to 1820, will be included in the Galveston Historical Homes Tour for May, 2003.

A brief preliminary discussion followed on ideas for landscaping, required dress and a possible flag presentation, etc., plans of which are to be finalized at upcoming meetings.

21st GULF SOUTH HISTORY AND HUMANITIES CONFERENCE, OCT. 17-19, '02

A copy of the conference presentations was provided for members' interest. Additional copies will be xeroxed for distribution at the next meeting.

Discussion followed on ideas for preparing the Maison Rouge site for a tour Oct. 19 by conference visitors and a visit to The Laffite Society meeting room at The Trolley Stop at 2021 Strand, where copies of *The Laffite Society Chronicles* and membership application information will be provided, and members will be available to answer questions about the Society.

DONATION OF *CHRONICLE* ISSUES TO ROSENBERG LIBRARY

The Laffite Society received a thank-you letter addressed to Second Vice-President Mike Eubank from the Rosenberg Library in Galveston, History Center Archivist Casey Green, for a complete set donated by the Society of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, from January, '95 to October, 2001.

NO QUARTER GIVEN ARTICLE ON THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

The President read an article about The Laffite Society printed in the July, 2002 issue of *No Quarter Given*, a newsletter featuring "pirate related information and events."

LAFFITE NATIONAL MARKER

Advisory Board Member and Laffite Society Historian, Jean L. Epperson reported that the Laffite National Marker created with funding by the Lake Charles Buccaneer Society and Galveston's Laffite Society has found a permanent placement on private property near McNeese Stadium in Lake Charles, LA, a location very accessible to the public.

WILLIAM SIMPSON OBITUARY

The President reported that an obituary for William D. Simpson would appear in the next issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*. The Secretary stated that she would e-mail Editor-of-Publications Don Marler the news clipping of the obituary from *The Galveston County Daily News*, showing a photo of Mr. Simpson to include in the article.

DONATION OF ARTICLE ON LAFFITE

Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson donated a photocopy of an article entitled *Why Jean Laffite Became a Pirate*, by Charles Ramsdell, Jr., taken from *The Southwest Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XLIII, July, 1939 to April, 1940, a publication of the Texas State Historical Association. Press Director Dave Roberts volunteered to review the article for discussion at a future meeting.

BOOK ON ISLE DERNIER

The President reported that Advisory Board Member Robert Looper of Golden Meadow, LA, had sent to him on loan for members' interest a book on Isle Dernier, a barrier island near Barataria in southeast Louisiana, a location used at various time by smugglers in the early 19th century, and, later, as a watering place boasting a grand hotel for wealthy southerners and New Orleanians until it was destroyed by a hurricane in August of 1856 along with its approximately 400 occupants. After making a photocopy, the President returned the book to Robert Looper.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by

DOROTHY L. KARILANOVIC

Recording/Corresp. Secretary, THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:9/4/02

File

MINUTES
General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
September 17, 2002
THE TROLLEY STOP
2021 Strand
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeff Modzelewski; First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Second Vice-president, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS: Jean L. Epperson; R. Dale Olson; Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Vivienne Bass; Joe and Judy Dolfi; Sheldon Kindall; Don and B.J. Peak; Richard Rasche; Norman and Margie Sachnik; Betty Wilson

GUESTS/VISITORS: Grace Davis; John Mark Jackson; McKay Otto

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the general meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. A special presentation/event preceded the business meeting.

HISTORY OF THE SAZERAC COCKTAIL

First Vice-President and Program Chairman Jim Nonus spoke on the history of the famous New Orleans cocktail drink invented by Antoine Peychaud, a Creole immigrant, creator of Peychaud Bitters, who operated a pharmacy on the French Quarter's Royal Street in the 1830s. Copies of a short history of the celebrated cocktail as well as a recipe were provided, and members were treated to a serving as a "special event" provided by Jim Nonus, Mike & Jerry Eubank, and Kathy and Jeff Modzelewski.

MINUTES

The Special Presentation was followed by a reading of the Minutes by the Secretary, which were then approved with two corrections.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jerry Eubank reported an account balance of \$4,003.85 as of Sept. 17, 2002.

THE CHRONICLES

The President announced that *The Laffite Society Chronicles* would be ready for distribution soon, and that extra copies were being made of special back issues to keep on file.

FLAG PRESENTATION

The Secretary mentioned that she had contacted a local flag-making company to obtain estimates of costs in the event the Society wanted to have flags made associated with Laffite history to display at the Maison Rouge site during the Galveston Historical Homes Tour of May, 2003.

NEW ART WORK ON LAFFITE

First Vice-President Jim Nonus announced that an artist in the Houston-Galveston area was starting to work on a concept for a statue of Jean Laffite, and that ideas were needed to raise money for the bronze statue.

SIGNAGE

The President suggested that the Society needed to move on with plans for having special signs created to erect at various sites in The Trolley Stop Building where meetings are held.

HISTORICAL SCRIPTS FOR HOMES TOUR

President Jeff Modzelewski stated that members should begin thinking about subject matter for special scripts to be used by docents at the Maison Rouge site during the Homes Tour in May, 2003. Volunteers were called for to help write the scripts.

IMPROMPTU DISCUSSION

Discussion followed to familiarize guests and recount for others past events and history associated with the Society. Sheldon Kendall gave a description of background history of the archaeological excavations carried out at the Maison Rouge site on Harborside Drive in 1984 and 1996. R. Dale Olson spoke on the history of the Maison Rouge Site.

LAFFITE PRIMER

Advisory Board Member in absentia Pam Keyes from Miami, OK stated in an e-mail letter to Dr. Reginald Wilson that she had begun work on a "Laffite Primer pamphlet" for new members of the Society. As stated by Ms. Keyes, "[the Primer] will be a brief time-line type biography of Laffite accompanied by an explanatory directory of the numerous Laffite associates . . ."

OCTOBER, 2002 MEETING

First Vice-President and Program Chairman Jim Nonus announced that the October, 2002 meeting would be held at Galveston's Seaport Museum on Harborside Drive for a showing of the film "*The Pirate Island of Jean Laffite*."

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

DOROTHY MCDONALD KARILANOVIC
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:10/10/02

File

MINUTES
General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
October 15, 2002
THE TROLLEY STOP
2021 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeff Modzelewski; First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Recording/Coordinating Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian, Jean L. Epperson

BOARD ABSENT: Third Vice-President Kathy Modzelewski; Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator-of-Research, Pam Keyes; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson; Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Richard Rasche; Ginny Roberts; Sheldon Kindall; Betty Wilson

VISITORS: Mario and Sharon Concha; Carlos Guerguin; McKay Otto

SPECIAL EVENT FILM

Prior to the business meeting, members walked over to Pier 21, the Texas Seaport Museum, to view the film *The Pirate Island of Jean Laffite*, arranged for a special viewing at 7:00 p.m. by First Vice-President and Program Chairman Jim Nonus.

CALL TO ORDER

Following the film showing, members gathered again at The Trolley Stop building for a continuation of the evening's meeting, the President calling the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Minutes of September 17, 2002 were approved as read to members by the Secretary, with one correction.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jerry Eubank presented a written report showing a balance after disbursements and deposits of \$3,953.41 as of this date.

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES

Copies of the latest issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles, Vol. VIII, No.2, October, 2002*, were given out to members present.

DONATION OF MICROPHONE EQUIPMENT

Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson set up microphone equipment he and Mrs. Wilson had donated to the Society, and gave an explanation of how the equipment can be used.

SIGNAGE

The President suggested that plans move forward for the creation and erecting of Laffite Society signs for The Trolley Stop building as discussed at previous meetings.

LETTER FROM MRS. PABLO BUSH

The President gave to Secretary, Dorothy Karilanovic, a letter dated September 25, 2002 addressed to her from "Mrs. Paul H. Bush," widow of the late Pablo Bush Romero who had conducted investigations into Laffite history in 1959, and who had passed away two years ago at the age of 90. Due to time constraints, the Secretary said she would read the letter and report contained in it to members at the November meeting.

Dr. Reginald Wilson, who had lived and worked in the Yucatan, along with Mrs. Wilson, commented briefly on his memories of Pablo Bush and his association with the native Mayans of that region.

MAISON ROUGE ARTIFACTS

Member-at-Large Sheldon Kindall set up a carefully mounted display of various items retrieved during excavation at the Maison Rouge site at 1417 Harborside Drive. These will be available for viewing during a reception for visitors and attendees of the 21st Gulf South History and Humanities Conference on Saturday, October 19, 2002 at The Trolley Stop building, 2021 Strand and the Maceo Bakery Banquet Room on 21st Street.

THANK-YOU ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO SEAPORT MUSEUM

The President suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to the Museum Director and personnel at The Texas Seaport Museum for the courtesy and attention shown to members during the special viewing of the film *The Pirate Island of Jean Laffite*, which the Secretary stated she would prepare and send.

DEDICATION OF TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL MARKER FOR PRICE DANIELS

President Jeff Modzelewski stated that the Society had received an invitation to attend the recent dedication October 10th of a marker in memory of the late Governor of Texas Price Daniels who had donated the original copy of the French document *The Journal of Jean Laffite* to the Sam Houston Library and Research Center in Liberty, Texas in 1975.

HOLIDAY PARTY PLANS

First Vice-President Jim Nonus suggested that members consider drawing up a list of guests who will receive invitations to the Society's annual Holiday Party, tentatively planned for December 12. A suggestion was also offered to have T-shirts with a Laffite Society logo available for sale at the party.

OTHER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The President extended thanks on behalf of members present for refreshments provided for the evening.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the general meeting of October 15 was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording, Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

File

MINUTES
General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
November 19, 2002
THE TROLLEY STOP
2021 Strand
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President Jeffrey Modzelewski; First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator-of-Research, Pam Keyes; Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS: Jean L. Epperson; R. Dale Olson; Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ron and Beth Austin; Joe and Judy Dolfi; Sheldon Kindall; George Najarian; Richard and Kileen Prather; Richard Rasche; Norman and Margie Sachnik; Betty Wilson

VISITOR: Dan Cote

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

READING OF RAMSDELL ARTICLE ON LAFFITE

Press Director Dave Roberts read a review he had prepared from a comparative point of view of an article donated by Dr. Reginald Wilson obtained from the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, TX, entitled "*Why Jean Laffite Became a Pirate,*" presenting an alternative theory on the identity of Jean Laffite in the person of one Juan Lafita Miramón of Mexico. The article also mentioned Juan Lafita's association with an "uncle," Juan de la Porta, the latter also having been referred to in other sources as James de la Porta, a relative of the Jean Laffite of Galveston and New Orleans renown. The article, written by Charles Ramsdell, Jr., was from the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* for the period July, 1939 to April, 1940, a publication of the Texas State Historical Association.

MINUTES

The Minutes of October 15 were approved on motions by Ron and Beth Austin, with two corrections.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jerry Eubank presented a written report showing an ending balance in the Society's account on November 19, 2002 of \$3,522.86.

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES

Mike and Jerry Eubank offered to gather information on comparative printing costs in the Galveston area for the Society's publication, *The LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES*.

BOOK NOTE REGARDING LAFFITE HISTORY ON GRANDE TERRE ISLAND, LA

Member-at-Large Richard Rasche read a note at the end of a book by Barbara Hambly, entitled *Wet Grove*, published by Bantam Books, New York, 2002, referring briefly to Jean Laffite's association with Baratavia.

1822 NEWS ARTICLE FROM CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson mentioned receiving an e-mail letter from Coordinator-of Research Pam Keyes in Miami, OK, stating she had obtained through e-Bay a copy of a newspaper entitled *The National Gazette and Literary Register* of Philadelphia, September 5, 1822, in which appeared an article from Cartagena, Colombia, SA stating that Jean Laffite had a privateer's commission from the Colombian government in late 1822. The article refers to a "schooner of about 40 tons," matching a description of the vessel *General Santander*. Ms. Keyes stated she is positive that documents confirming the above could be found in the archives at Bogotá, Colombia.

PABLO BUSH ROMERO REPORT

Secretary Dorothy Karilanovic stated that, due to time limits, she would defer until a future meeting date a reading of a letter from Mrs. Paul H. Bush of El Paso, TX and a report of her late husband's 1959 Yucatan Laffite investigation. The Secretary also stated she had sent Mrs. Bush a letter of thanks on members' behalf for her cordial response to the Society's inquiry for information for its archive.

LETTER OF THANKS TO SEAPORT MUSEUM

The Secretary reported that, as requested, she had prepared and sent a letter of thanks on the Society's behalf to Director Kurt Voss and Staff of the Texas Seaport Museum for the courtesy and special attention shown to members at a recent showing of the film *The Pirate Island of Jean Laffite*, arranged by First Vice-President and Program Chairman Jim Nonus.

LAFFITE LECTURES TO EXTRAMURAL GROUPS

President Jeff Modzelewski reported that he had recently given a lecture on Laffite history to a Masonic group at Galveston's Scottish Rite Temple which was well received by their members

The President also stated that he and Advisory Board Member R. Dale Olson had made a recent out of town presentation on Laffite at a group of the Sons of the American Revolution.

JEAN LAFFITE SCULPTURE

First Vice-President Jim Nonus presented colored photos of sculpture-artist Erik Christianson's life-sized composition of Jean Laffite attired in 1814-1815 dress. Jim suggested that members might want to consider plans for a fund-raising event to finance completion of the detailed, uniquely realistic bronze work, intended for eventual placement at a Galveston site.

JEAN LAFFITE NATIONAL PARK INVITATION

Advisory Board Member Jean L. Epperson reported a communication from Frank (also known as "Renato Beluche") Spiehler, inviting members of The Laffite Society to consider an association with the annual event in New Orleans commemorating the Battle of Chalmette.

HOLIDAY PARTY DATE AND PLANS

The date of the Society's holiday party was changed from December 12 to Sunday, December 15. Program Chairman Jim Nonus proposed that members consider allocating from the Society's account \$800.00 to have its holiday party catered for about 80 persons, to include an enhanced guest list. Discussion followed on concepts for the party that might attract new members from the community.

A motion tendered by parliamentarian Diane Olson, seconded by Ron Austin, was approved to fund the event from the treasury as proposed. A suggestion was also offered for members wishing to do so to donate extra funds as needed to underwrite the holiday event in this special effort to attract new membership. Program Chairman Nonus called for volunteers to form a committee to iron out party details.

SIGNAGE

The President called for volunteers to proceed with design and placement of Laffite Society signs for the Trolley Stop building.

BRISCO RESTAURANT PROPOSAL

President Jeff Modzelewski read a letter to members from Mr. G.A. Garcia requesting the Society's permission to use the Laffite Society logo in a sign advertising a new restaurant called the Bistro Laffite, planned for the Trolley Stop building. Following discussion on this proposal, the President stated that he would draft and send a polite response to the restaurateur's letter to state that the Society preferred to maintain a separate proprietary stance in the public use and display of its logo.

DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP DUES

The President led a short discussion on a possible change for 2003 in membership dues. Decision on changes was deferred to a future meeting.

SPEAKERS' CALENDAR

President Jeff Modzelewski suggested that members who wish to make a presentation at meetings contact the Program Chairman in advance to set up a date and prescribed amount of time to insure that all speakers would be able to make their presentations within meeting time limits.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The President extended a welcome to first-time visitor Dan Cote, and expressed thanks to members who regularly contribute food and drink for the evening's refreshments, as well as to member George Najarian who provided specially prepared foods from the Mosquito Café for this date.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the general meeting of November 19th was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dlmk:12/15/02

LAFFITE SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY
Maceo Bakery Bar and Buccaneer Room
210 21st Street
Galveston, Tx 77550

December 15, 2002

No regular meeting held