

2116

**MINUTES  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
General Meeting  
JANUARY 18, 2005  
THE TROLLEY STOP BUILDING  
2021 Strand  
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550**

**(In the absence of the Secretary, Minutes this date recorded by President Mike Eubank and First Vice-President R. Dale Olson, formatted and typed by Secretary)**

**BOARD PRESENT: Mike Eubank, President; R. Dale Olson, First Vice-President; Mike Bailey, Second Vice-President; Jim Nonus, Third Vice-President; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Jean L. Epperson, Co-Coordinator of Research; Sheldon Kindall, Co-Coordinator of Research; Dave Roberts, Press Director**

**BOARD ABSENT: Dorothy McD. Karilanovic, Secretary; Don C. Marler, Editor-of-Publications; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)**

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ron and Beth Austin; Steven Broadstone; Ron Broadstone; Ed Jamison; Lou MacBeth; Don and B.J. Peak; Ginny Roberts; Wil Zapalac**

**ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS: Jean L. Epperson; R. Dale Olson**

**VISITOR: Judge Garvin Germany**

**NEW MEMBERS: Jan and John Brick**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**President Mike Eubank called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**President Mike Eubank asked for a motion to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting, which was seconded and passed.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Jerry Eubank read the December and January Treasurer's Report and discussed the cost and income of the Christmas Party. A gross income of \$1,100.00 was realized and \$954.70 was spent, leaving a net income of \$145.30 from the party. As of January 18, 2005, the balance in the bank account of the Society was \$3,071.21.**

## **PRESENTATION**

Second Vice-President Mike Bailey presented a lecture with slides entitled *The Battle of Velasco*. Mike also brought cannon balls from the Velasco area for members to examine. Some of the cannon balls were made of brass (from Mexico) and iron (from the United States. According to Mike, a re-enactment of the Battle of Velasco is presented on or about March 25 each year.

## **DIRECT DESCENDANT OF PIERRE LAFFITE**

Jean L. Epperson showed photographs of Diane Burkett, the direct descendant of Pierre Laffite and an honorary member of the Society. She traced family lineage from Diane back to Pierre.

## **LOUISIANA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE**

President Mike Eubank reminded the membership of the upcoming conference of the Louisiana Historical Association in Lafayette, Louisiana in March. First Vice-President R. Dale Olson will be moderator of a session on the Laffites, and Advisory Board member Robert Vogel will present a paper, *Fantasy Archaeology: The Treasure of Jean Laffite*. Benjamin Maygarden will lecture on *The Private Lives of the Laffites*.

Mike will e-mail again the agenda of the conference prepared by R. Dale Olson. He will survey members to see what interest there is in going on the field trip. Final plans will be made at the February meeting.

## **BILL DOREE BOOK**

Third Vice-President Jim Nonus displayed and sold several copies of a new book on Laffite by Bill Doree: *Profiles in Pillage*. Jim Nonus appears on the cover of the book in full pirate dress.

## **LOUISIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BANQUET**

First Vice-President R. Dale Olson reported on the annual banquet held in New Orleans by the Louisiana Historical Society each year on January 8, the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. Members-at-Large Kathy and Jeff Modzelewski, Diane and Dale Olson with guests Beverly and Ellis Rudy attended this year's event held in the old Quadroon Ballroom, now a part of the Bourbon-Orleans Hotel.

## **MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, President Mike Eubank adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

ME:RDO:dk:1/29-05

**MINUTES**  
**General Meeting**  
**THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**  
**February 15, 2005**  
**THE TROLLEY STOP**  
**2021 Strand**  
**GALVESTON, TX 77550**

**BOARD PRESENT:** President, Mike Eubank; First Vice-President, R. Dale Olson; Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

**BOARD ABSENT:** Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)

**ADVISORY BOARD:** Jean L. Epperson; R. Dale Olson

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:** Ron and Beth Austin; John and Jan Brick; Stephen Broadstone; Ron Broadstone; Robert Evans; Clifford Johnson; Don and B.J. Peak; Wil Zapalac

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Mike Eubank called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of January 18, 2005 were approved by motion.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer, Jerry Eubank, presented a written report showing disbursements (\$324.80) and deposits (\$235.00) with a beginning balance January 18 of \$3,086.21 and an ending balance February 15 of \$3,037.41. Dues paid to date were \$235.00 for 8 persons, including 2 new members, John and Jan Brick.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Member-at-Large Donald T. Peak gave a presentation on his book, *Fire Mission* (2001, ISBN 0-89745-248-8), which is a tribute and enhanced narration of a World War II diary of American cannoneers of the 273<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion which supported the tanks and infantry commanded by General George S. Patton. Don, a radio operator assigned to the battalion, has served as its Historian since the war, and, in this capacity, received into his keeping the diary following the death of its author, Henry Stott Williams, upon which Don based his account of his own war memories.

Don also provided for members' interest souvenir mementos and albums of numerous black and white World War II photos which he and a fellow battalion

member had taken of the men who made up the artillery gun section during their victorious march across France from the coast of Normandy into Germany.

#### **SPECIAL EVENT TRIP MARCH 17-19, 2005**

President Mike Eubank reviewed plans for the Special Event trip to attend the 47<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association in Lafayette, LA in which members Robert Vogel and R. Dale Olson will participate in a session entitled *Pirates of the Gulf* on Friday, March 18, beginning at 1:15 p.m. Members are to receive a discounted ticket for the lecture sessions. Permission will be requested to make Xeroxed copies of the lectures for distribution, and tapes of the talks at the meeting will probably be available for purchase.

#### **MEMBERS VISIT BRAZOS VALLEY MUSEUM**

Jim Nonus, Clifford Johnson, and Mike and Jerry Eubank made a recent trip to the above museum in Bryan, College Station, TX to see the exhibit on *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Some items on view at the museum were contributed on loan from the personal collection of Jim Nonus, courtesy of the Galveston County Historical Museum, as well as from the Peabody Museum in Boston.

#### **UPCOMING TALKS**

Laffite author and researcher, Robert Vogel, will attend the March 15 meeting. Member-at-Large Carroll ("Curley") Lewis, Jr., author of *The Treasures of Galveston Bay* (1967), now in its 5<sup>th</sup> printing, will give a talk April 19 entitled *Laffite's Journal on the Table*, which Carroll hopes will galvanize some stimulating responses from members who hold varying viewpoints on the Journal and its claims.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Thanks extended to Jim Nonus, Mike and Jerry Eubank, and to Bistro LcCroy for food and beverage arrangements for the evening.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the general meeting of February 15, 2005 was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:3/9/05

**MINUTES**  
**General Meeting**  
**THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2005**  
**THE TROLLEY STOP**  
**2021 Strand**  
**GALVESTON, TX 77550**

**BOARD PRESENT:** President Mike Eubank; First Vice-President, R. Dale Olson; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

**BOARD ABSENT:** Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)

**ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT:** Jean L. Epperson; R. Dale Olson; Robert C. Vogel; Reginald Wilson

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:** Ron and Beth Austin; Stephen Broadstone; Ron Broadstone; Ed Jamison; Clifford Johnson; Lou Graves MacBeth; Louise Martin; George and Lizette Najarian; Don and B.J. Peak; Kathleen Taylor; Wil Zapalac

**VISITORS:** Randall Campbell; Al King; Sam Shipp

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Mike Eubank called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of February 15 were approved. The Secretary suggested that members who want to receive Minutes of meetings via e-mail give their addresses to Mike Eubank.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer, Jerry Eubank, presented a written report showing a beginning balance on February 15 of \$3, 037.43 and an ending balance on March 15 of \$3,577.43. Dues paid to date totaled \$550.00; disbursements to Bistro LeCroy, \$54.00; deposits for refreshments in February, \$44.00.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Laffite researcher/author and Laffite Society Advisory Board Member Robert C. Vogel gave a presentation on *The Pirate Hunters: U.S. Naval Officers on the Gulf of Mexico Station, 1806-1826*.

**LOUISIANA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING**

Plans for the March 17-19 annual meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association in Lafayette, LA were discussed. To date, eight Laffite Society members had signed up for this special event trip.

**NEW BOOK ON LAFFITE**

Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson showed members a corrected proof copy of history writer William C. "Jack" Davis' new book, *The Pirates Laffite: the Treacherous World of the Corsairs of the Gulf*, published by Harcourt, Inc., 2005.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Thanks were extended to Jim Nonus, Mike and Jerry Eubank, Louise Martin, and Bistro LeCroy for this date's refreshments.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the general meeting of March 15, 2005 was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

**ADDENDUM****UPCOMING MEETING PRESENTATIONS**

Tuesday, April 19, 2005: Carroll Lewis, Jr. Title: *Laffite's Journal on the Table*. Open discussion of varying opinions on the authenticity of *The Journal*.

(Tentative) Tuesday, May 17, 2005: R. Dale Olson will read a paper presented at the recent Louisiana Historical Association in Lafayette, LA by author/researcher Robert C. Vogel. Title: *Fantasy Archaeology: The Search for Laffite's Treasure*.

\dk:4/13/05

4/16

**MINUTES**  
**April 19, 2005**  
**THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**  
**The Trolley Stop Bldg.**  
**2021 Strand**  
**GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550**

**BOARD PRESENT: President, Mike Eubank; First Vice-President, R. Dale Olson; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson**

**BOARD ABSENT: Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)**

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

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ron and Beth Austin; John Brick; Carroll Lewis, Jr. (speaker); Lou Graves MacBeth; Don and B.J. Peak; Wil Zapalac**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**The President called the general meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Approved by motion.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Treasurer, Jerry Eubank, presented a written report of the Society's account showing a beginning balance on 3/15/05 of \$3,577.43; disbursements, \$103.00; deposits, \$198.00; and an ending balance on 4/19/05 of \$3,672.43. Five memberships were submitted.**

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**Member-at-Large, Carroll Lewis, Jr., author of *The Treasures of Galveston Bay*, presided over a discussion entitled *Laffite's Journal on the Table*. Members separated into groups representing those for, against, and still undecided on the authenticity of the French document known as *The Journal of Jean Laffite* written in 1845. To stimulate discussion, Carroll read an excerpt from *The Pirates' Own Book*, published in 1837, describing a dramatic fight to the death aboard ship in which Jean Laffite was said to have received mortal wounds. Some passages from *The Treasures of Galveston Bay* were also referenced.**

## **JEAN L. EPPERSON HONORED**

**Laffite Society Advisory Board Member, author and long-time researcher of Laffite history Jean L. Epperson received a plaque as an honorary member of the Pierre Bouet Laffitte family of North Louisiana during a recent reunion of descendants of Paul Bouet Laffitte on which Jean had done extensive research.**

## **DISCUSSION ON LOUISIANA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**Members who had attended the Mar. 17-19 meeting of the LHA in Lafayette, LA commented on their visit and on the program. Two papers presented at the meeting: *Fantasy Archeology: the Treasure of Jean Laffite* and *The Private Lives of the Laffites* may eventually appear in *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.**

## **PAPER BY WIL ZAPALAC**

**Member-at-Large, Wil Zapalac gave out copies of his paper, *Privateer or a Pirate? The Difference*, a discussion as to what rights the holders of Letters of Marque were entitled to, and the often ambiguous interpretation of acts perpetrated at sea by legitimate patent holders and by pirates who had no such license. Wil asks, "Was Jean Laffite a privateer or a pirate?"**



**MAY MEETING**

First Vice-President R. Dale Olson will read one of the papers presented at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association: *Fantasy Archeology: the Treasure of Jean Laffite* by Laffite Society member and author/researcher Robert Vogel.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Thanks to Jim Nonus, Mike and Jerry Eubank, Bistro LeCroy for refreshments and beverages, and, as always, to Diane and Dale Olson for use of their banquet room as a meeting place.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the general meeting of April 19, 2005 adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:5-12-05

**MINUTES**  
**THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**  
**General Meeting**  
**May 17, 2005**  
**THE TROLLEY STOP BUILDING**  
**2021 Strand**  
**GALVESTON, TX 77550**

**BOARD PRESENT:** First Vice-President, R. Dale Olson; Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

**BOARD ABSENT:** President, Mike Eubank; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)

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

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:** Ron and Beth Austin; Ron Broadstone; Ed Jamison; Lou Graves MacBeth; Don and B.J. Peak

**VISITORS:** Nancy Beaman; Jay Clements; Chuck Dean

**CALL TO ORDER**

Presiding in the absence of the President, Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus, called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the April 19 meeting were read to members on request. A motion by Diane Olson, seconded by Lou MacBeth, and approved by members present reinstated the reading of Minutes at future meetings in order to inform those not having access to e-mail and those who wish to have recalled the subject matter at the previous meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Deferred until June meeting.

**BOOK SIGNING BY WILLIAM C. ("Jack") DAVIS**

Jay Clements of *MIDSUMMER BOOKS* announced a book signing Sunday, May 29, at 2:00 by historian and author of 40 books William C. "Jack" Davis. The reception and signing will take place in the Laffite Room in The Trolley Stop Building. The title of the author's new book is *The Pirates Laffite: the Treacherous World of the Corsairs of the Gulf*. Davis is the director of programs in the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. He is also chief consultant for the A&E television series *Civil War Journal*, and teaches history at Virginia Tech.

Jay offered to provide a poster to place in the Bistro LeCroy and stated there would be a press release in a few days. Ed Jamison and Dorothy Karilanovic volunteered to help set up the Laffite meeting room for the signing.

#### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

First Vice-President, R. Dale Olson, gave a reading of Robert Vogel's paper, *Fantasy Archeology: the Treasure of Jean Laffite*, presented at the Louisiana Historical Association's meeting in Lafayette, LA, on March 18, 2005.

Emphasis was given in a detailed, thorough analysis on the prevailing elements that have, since the late 1820s, characterized the stories of treasure hunting related to Jean Laffite and to ship wrecks and treasure. The author mentioned noted writers of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries who helped to popularize the legends of the Laffite brothers and their contemporaries long before scholars with a more in-depth approach to research came upon the scene, efforts of which have been on-going for the past several decades.

#### **UPDATING LAFFITE SOCIETY WEB PAGE**

The Secretary noted that the list of officers on the Laffite Society's web page needed to be brought up to date. Discussion deferred until June meeting.

#### **CATALOGING ARCHIVES**

R. Dale Olson reported that the Society's archival collection will be moved to a new location in the near future, next to the present meeting room.

Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey, suggested that the Society might want to consider sponsoring a student, such as a university intern specializing in the Humanities, to survey and catalogue the collected documents. More info will be furnished at an upcoming meeting.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Thanks extended to Third-Vice-President and Hospitality Chairman, Jim Nonus, and to Bistro LeCroy, for refreshments and beverages. Wine was donated by Jim Nonus.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the general meeting of May 17, 2005, was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:5/24/05

(Corrected 7/8/05)

**MINUTES  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
June 21, 2005  
General Meeting  
SIMPSON'S GALLERIES  
2411 Strand  
GALVESTON, TX 77550**

**BOARD PRESENT:** President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall.

**BOARD ABSENT:** First Vice-President, R. Dale Olson; Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)

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

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:** John and Jan Brick; Don and B.J. Peak; Betty Wilson; Wil Zapalac

**VISITOR:** Al King

**CALL TO ORDER**

The general meeting was called to order by President Mike Eubank at 6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

No Minutes for the May meeting were sent by e-mail. Minutes of May 17, 2005 were approved following a reading by the Secretary to members present.

**TREASURY REPORT**

No May report on file due to absence of Treasurer. A written report of the Society's account was presented by Treasurer, Jerry Eubank showing a beginning balance on 4/19/05 of \$3,672.43. Following

disbursements in April of \$83.08 and deposits in April of \$60.00, including 3 memberships, the ending balance on 6/21/05 was \$3,668.95.

#### **LAFFITE SOCIETY WEB SITE UPDATES**

President Mike Eubank reported that, as Web Master, he is in the process of reconstructing the entire Web site for the Society, and that once this is done there will be updates.

#### **WILLIAM C. ("JACK") DAVIS' BOOK SIGNING**

The Secretary spoke briefly about the Sunday, May 29 book signing for noted Civil War historian and author William C. ("Jack") Davis, which was held in the Laffite Room of the Trolley Stop Building, 2021 Strand, courtesy of owners and Laffite Society members Diane and R. Dale Olson.

The author gave an over-view of his new book, *The Pirates Laffite: the Treacherous World of the Corsairs of the Gulf*. Jay Clements of *Midsummer* Books assisted with book purchases. Advisory Board Member Pam Keyes introduced the author. About 30 plus persons were present for the presentation, and Davis' talk was well received. A list of some members of the Society acknowledged in the author's book was read by the Secretary to those in attendance.

The book promises to be the definitive documentation of research to date on the privateering lives of the brothers Laffite and their contemporaries. The author also makes numerous references to Laffite Society members who have contributed to the research through the years in the Society's publication *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, and elsewhere.

Following the talk, discussion and book signing, members of the Society presented a champagne toast to the author and his wife, Sandra, compliments of Advisory Board Members Pam Keyes, who had traveled from Miami, Ok to propose the special toast, and Dr. Reginald Wilson, and Mrs. Betty Wilson. Member-at-Large Ed Jamison did the expert honors of popping the corks.

#### **DISCUSSION ON *THE JOURNAL***

Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson, long-time Laffite researcher on *The Journal of Jean Laffite*, spoke about his research and conclusions on the question of who may have written the alleged diary, with a special focus on the handwriting in the document compared with other examples thought to be by the hand of Jean Laffite.

**Dr. Wilson also commented on some of the highlights of William “Jack” Davis’ new book on the Laffites, mentioned above, as well as on a letter written October 4, 1814 supposedly in Laffite’s handwriting, from Jean to Edward Livingston, his lawyer in New Orleans.**

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Thanks extended to Third Vice-President Jim Nonus, Mike and Jerry Eubank for drinks and refreshments, the latter provided by *Mediterranean Chef*. Members were reminded to contribute to the “treasure chest” for refreshment expenses.**

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

**There being no further business, the general meeting of June 21, 2005 adjourned at 7:50 p.m.**

**Submitted by,**

**Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**

**\dk:7/7/05**

**Corrected version posted by e-mail to Web Master 7/8/05**

Corrected 8/30/05

**MINUTES  
General Meeting  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
July 19, 2005  
Simpson's Galleries  
2411 Strand  
Galveston, TX 77550**

**BOARD PRESENT:** President, Mike Eubank; First V-P, R. Dale Olson; 2<sup>ND</sup> V-P, Mike Bailey; 3<sup>rd</sup> V-P, Jim Nonus; Recorder, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

**BOARD ABSENT:** Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant).

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

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:** Ron and Beth Austin; Ed Jamison; George and Lizette Najarian; Don and B.J. Peak

**VISITORS:** Dr. Sue Forrest; Al King

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Mike Eubank called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES:** Minutes corrected 7/8/05 were approved by motion.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer, Jerry Eubank, presented a written report of the Society's account as follows: Beginning balance on 6/21/05, \$3,668.95; disbursements, \$33.00; deposits (including dues for L. Corley) \$67.00; ending balance on 7/19/05, \$3, 762.95.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION by MIKE BAILEY**

Second V-P Mike Bailey, curator at the Brazoria County Historical Museum, gave a talk on handmade quilts, some of which are housed in the museum. For members' interest, Mike gave out copies of

***A Timeline of Quilting History in America*, an extensively notated list describing quilt designs, materials, methods used and purposes for use. The timeline extended from Pre-Colonial Europe, the 1600s and the American Revolution up to 1976.**

**Copies of a second reference provided for interest gave instructions on how to care for and preserve textiles: *Four Quick Quilt Tips: Recording, Cleaning, Storing or Displaying Your Quilt*.**

### **1875 MALLORY LINE STEAMER OFF GALVESTON**

**Co-Coordinates of Research Sheldon Kindall and Jean L. Epperson brought to the meeting a copy of *Current Archeology in Texas, April, 2005, Vol. 7, #1*, in which appeared an article by underwater archeologist and former Laffite Society member and Web master, Andy Hall. Andy, a Marine Steward associated with the Texas Historical Commission, described an on-going investigation of *The City of Waco*, a Mallory Line steamer which caught fire, cause unknown, and burned at anchorage off Galveston Island on the night of November 8-9, 1875. All 56 persons aboard perished.**

**According to the article, excavation started in 2004, and more dives are planned for 2005 to “further define the wreck site.”**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) A field trip to the Brazoria County Historical Museum, suggested by Jean L. Epperson and Mike Eubank and on an invitation from Mike Bailey.**
- 2) R. Dale Olson reported that Robert and Kathleen Vogel are planning a trip in January, 2006 to the Yucatan. Laffite Society members are invited to participate in this travel which will focus on familiar settings associated with Laffite history.**

### **UPCOMING TALK, AUGUST 16, 2005**

**According to Member-at-Large, Don Peak, author of *Fire Mission* (2001), a memoir of W.W. II cannoneers, author and Cajun speaker Jason P. Theriot will speak on August 16, 2005 on the oral histories he has written about of W.W. II veterans from the Bayou Country. Books for purchase may be available.**



**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Thanks extended to Jim Nonus, Mike and Jerry Eubank for refreshments and beverages, and to Jim Nonus for making available Simpson's Galleries as a setting for meeting dates in June and July**

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**There being no further business, the general meeting of 7/19/05 adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**

**Submitted by,**

**Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**

**\dk:8/12/05**

**Corrected 8/30/05**

**MINUTES  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
General Meeting  
August 16, 2005  
SIMPSON'S GALLERIES  
2411 Strand  
GALVESTON, TX. 77550**

**BOARD PRESENT:** President, Mike Eubank; First Vice-President, R. Dale Olson; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Recorder, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

**BOARD ABSENT:** Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)

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

**MEMBERS-AT=LARGE:** Clifford Johnson; George and Lizette Najarian

**VISITOR:** Al King

**CALL TO ORDER**

The President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of July 19 were approved with two corrections.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Jerry Eubank presented a written report as follows: Beginning balance 7/19/05, \$3,702.95; ending balance 8/16/05, \$3,745.64 Disbursements, \$58.31; deposits, including dues for John Germann and Gary Branfman, \$101.00.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

The presentation by Cajun author Jason P. Theriot scheduled for this date was postponed until the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Third Vice-President JIM NONUS spoke about certain items from his personal collection on display for members, some of which had been on view earlier in the year during an exhibit entitled *Pirates of the Caribbean* at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History in Bryan, College Station, Texas, along with items from the Peabody Museum in Boston and the Galveston County Historical Museum: 1) Spanish doubloons; a genuine \$100.00 gold banknote from Antigua, produced by the Excelsior Collectors' Guild, LTD, of Canada; a letter published in 1817 in *The New York Herald* from a lieutenant under the command of General Francisco Mina, Revolutionary for Mexican independence, describing Galveston Island in 1816, prior to Laffite's tenure on the island; an 1836 map, one of a few, showing the abandoned Champ d'Asile French settlement on the Trinity River; a framed photograph in color of the alleged diary of Jean Laffite, now housed at the Sam Houston Library and Research Center at Liberty, Texas; a framed map of Cuba, ca. 1900, which was a gift from the Brazos Valley Museum; numerous books on Laffite history; a copy of *The Niles Register* showing a report of Jean Laffite's purported death during a sea battle in April, 1823**

#### **ROMANTIC NOVEL ON LAFFITE**

**Co-Coordinator of Research Jean L. Epperson showed members a novel entitled *Siren* written by Australian Laffite Society Member Cheryl (Hingley) Sawyer in January, 2005 (publisher, Signet Eclipse). The author acknowledges the "dedicated research" of Laffite Society members who "constantly discover new aspects of the pirate of the Gulf and debunk just as many false claims." Special thanks were given to Editor-of-Publications Don C. Marler and to noted Laffite researcher Jean L. Epperson who read the author's manuscript for historical accuracy. The book, in addition to its entertainment value, is described as giving an excellent description of the Louisiana countryside.**

#### **SPECIAL EVENT TRIPS**

**Members discussed travel to the Brazoria County Historical Museum in Angleton and to the Sam Houston Library and Research Center in Liberty, Texas. President, Mike Eubank, said he would choose a date on a Monday in September or October for members to consider for a trip to the museum in Angleton.**

**UPCOMING SPEAKER – SEPTEMBER 20, 2005**

**Cajun speaker, Jason P. Theriot, will be at the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting to talk about the oral histories he has written and published on World War II veterans from the Bayou Country of Louisiana.**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Thanks given to Third Vice-President and Hospitality Chairman Jim Nonus, to President Mike Eubank and Treasurer Jerry Eubank for providing tonight's refreshments and beverages, and to Jim Nonus, Gallery Director of Simpson's Galleries, for making the site available for the meeting.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**There being no further business, the general meeting of August 16, 2005 adjourned at 7:20 p.m.**

**Submitted by,**

**Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**

**\dk:8/30/05**

2/10

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2005**

**MEETING CALCELLED  
DUE TO STORM PREPARATIONS  
FOR  
HURRICANE RITA**

**MINUTES  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETING  
Friday, October 7, 2005  
PANAMA LOFTS  
202 25<sup>th</sup> St.  
GALVESTON, TX 77550**

**BOARD PRESENT:** President, Jim Nonus; First Vice-President, E. Lou Graves MacBeth; Second Vice-President, Wil Zapalac; Third Vice-President, Lizette Gaudin; Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

**BOARD ABSENT:** Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Coordinator of Research Gary Fretz; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian (office vacant)

**ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT:** R. Dale Olson

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Jim Nonus called the Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**OCTOBER 17 MEETING AT MAISON ROUGE**

- 1) Program:** Lou MacBeth volunteered to provide 2 photos taken in 1948, front and back, of the 1886 Henrick's House formerly on the Maison Rouge site, 1417 Ave. A, to be scanned and forwarded to Jim to prepare the program for distribution at Maison Rouge.
- 2) Set Up:** - 2 tables will be provided for food set-up and registration, etc.
- 3) Parking:** Second Vice-President Wil Zapalac to contact management at The Bar tavern on 14<sup>th</sup> and Strand to ask if attendees at the Oct. 17 meeting can use their parking lot on the alley. Members were asked to consider car pooling to save parking space.
- 4) Security:** Diane Olson volunteered to inform the Police Dept. of the meeting date in the event security is needed.
- 5) Convenience Items:** Lizette suggested members bring insect repellent, chairs and a flashlight. Torch-type lights will be placed around the lot.

**MINUTES  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
General Meeting  
October 18, 2005  
THE PANAMA HOTEL APTS.  
25<sup>TH</sup> St. and Strand  
GALVESTON, TX 77550**

**BOARD PRESENT:** First Vice-President, R. Dale Olson; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Rec./Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanic; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

**BOARD ABSENT:** President, Mike Eubank; Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Editor-of Publications, Don C. Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts, Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)

**ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT:** R. Dale Olson; Dr. Reginald Wilson

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:** Ron and Beth Austin; Stephen Broadstone; Dan Cote; Ed Jamison; Clifford Johnson; Lou MacBeth; George Najarian; Don and B.J. Peak; Betty Wilson

**VISITORS:** Nancy Beaman; John Crossman; Dr. Sue Forrest; Carlos Guergin; Rob and Carolyn Peterson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Standing in for President Mike Eubank who was out of town, Third Vice-President Jim Nonus called the meeting to order, welcoming special guest speaker Jayson P. Theriot, members and visitors.

**MINUTES**

The August 16 Minutes were not read to members present, but were sent 8/20/05 to President Mike Eubank for e-mail transmission to

**members of the Laffite Society News Group. No Minutes were recorded in September due to cancellation in preparation for hurricane Rita.**

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**No report available this date as Treasurer, Jerry Eubank, was out of town.**

#### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**Author and historian, Jason P. Theriot, gave a talk on the story of the World War II participation of Cajun French-speaking soldiers of the Second Battalion, 156th Regiment of the Louisiana National Guard during the years 1940-1945. The author has written a work divided into three separate books on the subject, two of which are now in print, and one pending: 1) *Pacific Campaign* 2) *Mediterranean Campaign* 3) *European Theater* (available Nov. 11, 2005). The war accounts presented in the books are the result of numerous personal interviews Mr. Theriot had with French speaking World War II veterans of Louisiana. American citizens of French origin participated in the French resistance along with some 500,000 persons by 1944, taking part in activities of the Office of Strategic Services and many special operations in the allied resistance. Their story and war participation was kept classified until the Freedom of Information Act was passed a few years back.**

**Following the special presentation, the author signed copies of his books. Order forms for books are available from Member-at-Large, Don Peak, and from the author at the following address: Jason P. Theriot, 931 W. 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Houston, TX 77018. Tel.: 713)812-7839.**

#### **DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY**

**Arrangements for the Laffite Society Holiday Party on Sunday, December 11 at Bistro LeCroy, 2021 Strand, will be discussed at the November 15 meeting.**

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Thanks to Member-at-Large Don Peak for scheduling tonight's speaker; to Third Vice-President and Hospitality Chairman Jim Nonus and Member-at-Large B.J. Peak for tonight's refreshments; to Jim Nonus for beverages and bar area set up and for providing meeting space in the lobby of the new Panama Hotel Apts. Members helped out**



**with pick up and delivery of food, chair set-up and take down, and contributed toward expenses for refreshments.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**There being no further business, the general meeting of October 18 adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.**

**Submitted by,**

**Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording//Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**

**\dk:11-12-05**

**(Minutes were recorded by President Mike Eubank, typed and formatted by the Secretary)**

**MINUTES  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
November 15, 2005  
PANAMA HOTEL  
25<sup>TH</sup> Street and Strand  
GALVESTON, TX 77550**

**BOARD PRESENT: President, Mike Eubank; Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall; Press Director, Dave Roberts**

**BOARD ABSENT: Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Editor-of Publications, Don C. Marler; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)**

**ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson**

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: John and Jan Brick; Stephen and Ron Broadstone; Ed Jamison; George and Lizette Najarian**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**The general meeting was called to order at 6: 50 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**October Minutes were not read or approved, but had been sent to members having e-mail addresses.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT (submitted to Secretary following meeting)**

**Beginning balance on 8/16/2005, \$3,745.64; disbursements, \$293.92; deposits, \$82.00; ending balance on 11/15/2005, \$3,533.72. Memberships paid for Peterson and Ergovich, \$35.00 and \$15.00.**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Party events were discussed – time, location, cocktail hour and menu. Invitations were distributed to members present. Mike Bailey**

**announced that Jim Nonus would be the speaker and M.C. for the party. Details of program are forthcoming.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**None.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Ed Jamison who is Chairman of the annual Dickens-on-the Strand spoke to members about the event and invited all to attend.**

**CONDOLENCE CARD FOR EARTHMAN FAMILY**

**Jean Epperson suggested that the Secretary send a condolence card from the Society to long-time member Jim Earthman and his family on the recent death of his wife Margaret.**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Jerry Eubank brought sandwiches, chips for the meeting, and Jim Nonus provided the wine.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7: 40 p.m.**

**Submitted by,**

**Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Secretary, THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**

**\dk:12/09/2005**