

**MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
January 24, 2007
TROLLEY STOP BUILDING
2021 Strand
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 McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

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

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: R. Dale Olson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ed and Betty Connor; Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski; Don Peak

VISITOR: Benny Methvin

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m., welcoming new members Ed and Betty Connor.

MINUTES

The Minutes of November 20, 2006 were approved following a reading to members by the Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Nancy Beaman announced January 1, 2007 as the due date for membership renewals, and that anyone who had paid in the last quarter of December, 2006, would be considered current for 2007.

MEMBERSHIP

Second Vice-President and Membership Chairman Wil Zapalac stated there are currently 62 memberships in THE LAFFITE SOCIETY. An up-dated membership list will be available in the near future.

SUGGESTED OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS FOR 2007

President Jim Nonus discussed possible sites for upcoming meetings, as follows: 1) Liberty, TX – once or twice a year at the Sam Houston Regional Library 2) New Orleans – so that members in that region can attend 3) Lafitte, LA – with LS member Tom Halko who has expressed a desire to meet with members to discuss ideas for building a small museum focusing on Laffite history 4) Longboat Key, FL – a field trip and meeting to include members Warren and Verna Stauffer in that area who have made recent contributions on Laffite history concerning Jean Laffite in Florida 5) Charleston, SC – a possible field trip (suggested by Dale Olson) 6) Book Discussion in Galveston by member Don Peak who is completing a new book on the experiences of a musician based at Galveston’s Ft. Crockett during World War .

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT’S TENTATIVE LIST OF PROGRAMS FOR 2007

First Vice-Present and Program Chairman Lou MacBeth recommended firming up monthly programs as soon as possible, as follows: FEBRUARY – “Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Party” at the Panama Lofts, Galveston; MARCH – Merida Trip Report (by R. Dale Olson and others); APRIL – Repeat appearance by Jason Theriot with up-dated interviews of W.W. II veterans from Louisiana

Possible subjects for future meetings: 1) History of the Maison Rouge and the 19th C. Hendrick’s House (Dale Olson and Lou MacBeth) 2) Discussion on Samuel Bangs (early Galveston editor) 3) Pierre Laffite Genealogy (Jean L. Epperson)

ARCHIVE

Program Chairman Lou MacBeth recommended setting up a working meeting of members to review items in the Archive and to establish a system for cataloguing.

RUBIO MANE TRANSLATION

Member-at-Large Jeff Modzelewski stated that 39 copies of his recent English translation of J. I. Rubio Mane's book *The Pirates Laffite* were given out to attendees at the Laffite Society's Holiday Party December 10, 2006. The Society will underwrite the cost of a specified number of copies dispensed upon receipt of Mr. Modzelewski's invoice.

MAILING TO MEMBERS

The President suggested sending out a mailing to members containing pertinent information relating to The Laffite Society, requesting home addresses, phone numbers and e-mail contacts for the up-dated membership list, with a reminder to send in dues for 2007.

JEFFREY P. MODZELEWSKI ELECTED TO ADVISORY BOARD

Members voted to add Member at Large Jeff Modzelewski, ex-officio Laffite Society President and former Editor of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, to the current Advisory Board. Editor-of-Publications Don C. Marler is to be notified of this election to include in future issues of *The Laffite Society Chronicle*.

ORIGINAL MS ON 1821 INVESTIGATION OF GEORGE SCHUMP

Following correspondence from, Jeff Modzelewski and Secretary Dorothy Karilanovic, Dr. Michel Antochiw of Merida, Yucatan, made available to Society members during the recent trip to Merida, Jan. 14-21, 2007, a copy of the original 19th Century handwritten MS in Spanish containing all of the testimonies concerning the investigation of privateer George Schump and the death of Pierre Laffite in the Yucatan in November, 1821. The MS, now in the hands of Jeff Modzelewski, will eventually repose in the The Laffite Society Archive.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks extended to Third Vice-President and Hospitality Chairman Lizette Gaudin for meeting refreshments, and to Dale and Diane Olson for making available private office space for this date's meeting.

**Submitted by,
Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**

\dk:2-3-2007

**MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
March 20, 2007
TROLLEY STOP BUILDING
2021 Strand
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 Najarian; Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Press Director, Dave Roberts

BOARD ABSENT: Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson; Jeffrey P. Modzelewski; Robert C. Vogel

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Jay and Elaine Bangle (new this date); Claudette Braly; Sheldon Kindall; Sybil Marler; Kathy Modzelewski; George Najarian; Robert and Carolyn Peterson; Ginny Roberts; Kathleen Taylor

VISITORS: Lady Elizabeth Galloway; Tia Leslie; Kay Tyler

CALL TO ORDER

President Jim Nonus called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a warm welcome to all, to speaker for the evening, visiting member Robert C. Vogel and his wife Kathleen Taylor, and with special remarks of appreciation for Third Vice-President Lizette Gaudin and Member-at-large Claudette Braly for arranging the buffet and beverages for the evening.

MINUTES

The President announced that due to time constraints the January Minutes would not be read as they had also been sent out by e-mail. No comments or corrections were forthcoming as of this date.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Nancy Beaman presented a written report of the Society's account for the period January 1 through March 18, 2007. Balance January 1: \$3,129.10; expenses, \$616.58; income (includes cash donations), \$705.00; Balance March 18, 2007: \$3,089.52.

MEMBERSHIP

Treasurer Nancy Beaman presented a written list of approximately 37 paid memberships. Second Vice-President and Membership Chairman Wil Zapalac reported that the updated membership list was nearing completion pending receipt of late membership dues, and that about 90 entries were already on file.

PROGRAMS

First Vice-President and Program Chairman Lou MacBeth reported that she had sent out to all members of the Laffite Society a program list and membership information, a reminder of 2007 dues, and a request for verification of e-mail addresses. An invitation was also extended to all members to join the Yahoo Group news line in order to receive a copy of the Minutes and information on future events of the Laffite Society.

ARCHIVES

Secretary and archival committee member Dorothy Karilanovic reported briefly on a meeting she had had Wednesday, March 14, at the Rosenberg Library with Archivists Casey Green and Carolyn Woods of Texas History Center, during which some ideas were discussed on how to set up an archival catalogue of Laffite Society documents.

A summary of this discussion was subsequently typed up and e-mailed to archival Chairman Ed Jamison and to committee members Lou MacBeth and Ondree Kuhn who were unable to attend the meeting on short notice.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

First Vice-President Lou MacBeth introduced guest speaker/ Advisory Board Member Robert C. Vogel, noted researcher and author on Laffite history, along with his wife, Kathleen Taylor who were visiting from their home in Spring Grove, Minnesota.

Robert presented a lively, well-researched and fact-filled talk on *The Battle of the Three Trees*, referring to a famous skirmish said to have occurred between members of the Laffite commune on Galveston Island and Karankawa Indians at a now popular tourist site on the island known as Laffite's Cove. Robert enlivened his talk with other details of interest on another well-known "sea raider" of that period, Louis-Michael Aury, an on the ill-fated filibuster James Long who had sought unsuccessfully to establish "a colony in 1820 dedicated to overthrowing imperial Spain," these men both having operated on and around Galveston Island prior to and after Laffite's occupation.

REPORTS ON THE DEC. 10TH HOLIDAY PARTY AND ON THE JANUARY, 2007 YUCATAN TRIP

Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler asked the Secretary to write a report for *The Laffite Society Chronicles* on the Society's December 10th, 2006 holiday party, and called for a write-up from the Society's travelers to the Yucatan of their experiences and findings, also for publication in *The Chronicles*.

CHANGE OF MEETING DATES

Discussion ensued on whether or not to change the general meeting date from the third Tuesday of the month to the second. Members agreed to continue as scheduled through May, at which time the meeting date would revert back to the second Tuesday in the month on a trial basis.

UPCOMING TALKS FOR APRIL AND MAY

- 1) Tuesday, April 17, 2007: A report by Dale Olson, Jim Nonus, and Ed Jamison on the January, 2007 Yucatan trip.
- 2) Tuesday, May 15, 2007: Jason Theriot, native of South Louisiana, will present Volume III of *To Honor Our Veterans*, an up-dated account of his on-going interviews with Cajun French veterans and their experiences as underground fighters in France during World War II.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks extended to Lizette Gaudin, Claudette Braly, George Najarian and others for buffet arrangements and beverage set-up, and to the always accommodating staff of Bistro LeCroy for food preparation and service.

Meeting space was made available, as has been customary, courtesy of Laffite Society members Dale and Diane Olson.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business of The Laffite Society on March 20, 2007, the general meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk:4-3-2007

4-17
**MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
April 17, 2007
Trolley Stop Building
2021 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550**

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jim Nonus; First Vice-President, E. Lou Graves MacBeth; Third Vice-President, Lizette Gaudin; Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Second Vice-President, Wil Zapalac; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Historian (office vacant)

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Lucia Bono; Stephen Broadstone; Ed and Betty Connor; Harry Forester; Clifford Johnson; Sheldon Kindall; George Najarian; Don and B.J. Peak; Rob and Carolyn Peterson; Kay Schwartz; Betty Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m. with thanks to board members & others who contributed to this evening's preparations. Jim presented to those in attendance a computer-generated agenda for the meeting. He then announced that current legal regulations prohibited the sale of wine on the premises and that future purchases of alcoholic beverages for the social portion of the meeting would depend on member donations.

MINUTES

The March 20th Minutes were not read due to time constraints. Copies had previously been e-mailed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Report deferred.

MEMBERSHIP

An up-dated membership list is still pending.

PROGRAMS

First Vice-President Lou MacBeth announced a special speaker on the early history of San Luis Pass on Galveston Island to be scheduled in late summer or early fall.

NEWS REPORTER TO ATTEND MEETING

The President announced that at a future meeting of the LS, Rick Cousins, reporter with *The Galveston County Daily News* would attend with the intention of writing an article on the Society and its activities.

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES

President Jim Nonus stated that copies of the current issue were on hand for members to take with them and that a sign-out list was available to indicate who had picked up their copies.

Jim thanked Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler, for his dedicated efforts and time in preparing the current issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, Secretary, Dorothy Karilanovic, and Treasurer, Nancy Beaman for their assistance in overseeing printing and payment.

ADDITION TO ADVISORY BOARD

The President asked members to consider adding ex-officio President Kathy Modzelewski to the Society's Advisory Board.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Advisory Board Member R. Dale Olson, with the assistance of First Vice-President Lou MacBeth, presented a Power-Point presentation on a recent trip to Merida, Yucatan and other points of interest in January, 2007. Those traveling with Dale and Diane Olson were Robert and Kathleen (Taylor) Vogel, Jim Nonus, Ed Jamison and Sandra Rodgers. Both Jim and Ed contributed to the presentation with amusing anecdotes and comments on the group's travel experiences.

While in Merida, the President was able to obtain from Dr. Michel Antochiw, Director of the Center for Support of Historical Research in Yucatan, a Xeroxed copy of the original manuscript in Spanish on the 1821 investigation surrounding the death and burial of Pierre Laffite in the Yucatan. Acquisition of this document was facilitated through an exchange of correspondence between Dr.

Antochiw, Secretary, Dorothy Karilanovic, and ex-officio President and Advisory Board Member Jeff Modzelewski whose 2006 translation of J.I. Rubio Mane's work, *The Pirates Laffite*, was based on this manuscript.

Photos of scenery, interiors of historical buildings and monuments as well as casual glimpses of the travelers were contributed by Ed, Dale and Diane. Dale's very informative account of the group's travel experiences appears in the current issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.

ARCHIVES

The President urged serious attention to clearing the area in the Trolley Stop Building where the Society's archives are currently kept, and that members contribute ideas for re-locating the collection to insure their safe-keeping.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks extended to Lizette Gaudin and members of the Hospitality Committee for coordinating refreshment and beverage set-up; to the Bistro LeCroy staff for preparation and food service, and to Dale and Diane Olson for making available meeting space for the social and business activities at tonight's meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business of the general meeting of April 17, 2007, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

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

\dmk:5-10-2007

(Corrected 6/3/2007)*

**MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
May 15, 2007
THE TROLLEY STOP BUILDING
2021 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550**

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jim Nonus; First Vice-President, Lou Graves MacBeth; Second Vice-President, Wil Zapalac; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Press Director, Dave Roberts

BOARD ABSENT: Third Vice-President, Lizette Gaudin; Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Historian (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jeff Modzelewski; R. Dale Olson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Lucia Bono; Clifford Johnson; Kathy Modzelewski; George Najarian; Don and B.J. Peak; Kay Schwartz

GUEST SPEAKER: Jason Theriot

VISITORS: Frank and Connie Dryden; Al King

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. with welcoming remarks.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the April 17th meeting were not read. Copies were previously sent out to members with e-mail addresses.

***TREASURER'S REPORT**

Due to absence of Treasurer Nancy Beaman, a report is deferred at this time. (Corrected to read: A report was presented stating beginning balance for April-Mail was \$3,138.32; ending balance, \$2,835.39.)

MEMBERSHIP

The up-dated list will be available at the June 12th meeting and will be sent out to non-local members along with their copies of the *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.

NEW MEMBER

The President announced receipt of a new membership from Nicholas Neylon of the Louisiana State (Pontalba) Museum in New Orleans' French Quarter.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

First Vice-President and Program Chairman Lou MacBeth introduced speaker Jason Theriot, back for an updated presentation on his continuing research into fist-hand accounts of American veterans and others of French background who took part in World War II.

Mr. Theriot spoke on his third and latest self-published volume, *To Honor Our Veterans*. His books "pay solemn tribute to W.W. II veterans of Acadiana in South Louisiana and open doors to a segment of Cajun history which has gone uncelebrated and undocumented for decades." A main focus of his work is on the sharing of stories of many veterans who participated in the D-Day invasion of June 6, 1944 and includes photos of the invasion and personal pictures from veterans. Jason also spoke of interviews he had conducted with women of the Bayou Country who had served by working as welders and riveters in the shipyards back home.

NEW DATE FOR JUNE MEETING

Meeting dates will revert back to the second Tuesday in the month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 12 at 6:00 p.m. at Simpson's Galleries, 2411 Strand, Galveston. Ed Jamison, Laffite Society Archivist, will speak on the Society's archives.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks extended to 1) George Najarian and Lizette Gaudin and Hospitality Committee members for providing buffet and beverages; 2) to Don and B.J. Peak for arranging for Mr. Theriot's second speaking engagement at the Society; to Lou MacBeth for providing notes for the Minutes on Mr. Theriot's talk in the absence of the Secretary; and to Dale and Diane Olson for making their private office space available for the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

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

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE Society

\\dmk:6-7-2007

MINUTES
June 12, 2007
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
SIMPSON'S GALLERIES
2413 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: Jim Nonus; Second Vice-President, Wil Zapalac; Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Archivist, Ed Jamison

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President, Lou Graves MacBeth; Third Vice-President, Lizette Gaudin; Editor of Publications, Don C. Marler; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD: None present.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Mike Bailey; Jay and Elaine Bangle; Lucia Bonno; Ed and Betty Connor; Jamie Murray; Don and B.J. Peak; Tom Shehan

CALL TO ORDER

President Jim Nonus called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Secretary read the Minutes of May 15 which were approved with one correction: a written Treasurer's report for April-May was presented despite the absence of the Treasurer at the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

Beginning balance for April/May was \$3,138.32; ending balance, \$2,835.39. Beginning balance for May/June, \$2,835.39; ending balance, \$2,836.25

MUSEUM ASSOCIATION MEETING

Member-at-Large Mike Bailey reported that a meeting of the Texas Association of Museums, the largest museum association in the nation, will take place in the early spring of 2008. Jim Nonus suggested that the Laffite Society might contribute a presentation during this event.

INTRODUCTORY DESCRIPTIVE INFO ON THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

Mike Bailey volunteered to draft a new two page introduction describing the purpose and goals of the Laffite Society.

ARCHIVE PRESENTATION

Laffite Society Archivist, Ed Jamison, spoke to members about the growing collection of documents on Laffite history in the Society's archive, and provided a

tentative list outlining archival categories, and one showing video and DVD holdings from March 1991 to July, 1999.

Ed mentioned receipt from the Secretary of two copies of Dr. Reginald Wilson's compilation of documents, along with his discussion of their import, entitled *Who Wrote the Journal?*, including background history on *The Journal* and his ideas and a handwriting analysis to support his conclusion, after five years of research that Anton (Antoine) Lafitte, Jean Laffite's son may have written the controversial "diary".

Mike Bailey and Jamie Murray, curators at The Brazoria County Historical Museum contributed ideas on how to catalogue and preserve archival materials.

During discussion, the subject was re-visited to hire a Ph.D. graduate student to conduct the cataloging process.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks extended to Jim Nonus, Nancy Beaman, Ed Jamison, and Dorothy Karilanovic for buffet refreshments, and to Lizette Gaudin for beverages.

The Society also thanks Ray Simpson and Jim Nonus, Managing Director of Simpson's Galleries, for making this site available for the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business of the day, the general meeting of June 12, 2007 was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by

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

\dk:6/3/2007

**MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
July 10, 2007
SIMPSON'S GALLERIES
2413 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550**

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jim Nonus; First Vice-President, Lou Graves MacBeth; Second Vice-President, Wil Zapalac; Third Vice-President, Lizette Gaudin (Najarian); Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Press Director, Dave Roberts

BOARD ABSENT: Editor of Publications, Don C. Marler; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson; Jeffrey Modzelewski

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Ron and Beth Austin; Ed and Betty Connor; Sheldon Kindall; Katy Modzelewski; Don and B.J. Peak; Rob and Carolyn Peterson; Ginny Roberts

VISITORS: Frank and Connie Dryden

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of June 12, 2007 were on file but not read. They will be transmitted to members by e-mail in the near future.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Nancy Beaman, presented a written report showing a beginning balance July 10, 2007 of \$2,906.90, and an ending balance of \$2,875.06.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

First Vice-President and Program Chairman Lou MacBeth presented a video on an excavation of the Maison Rouge site at 1417 Ave. A, Galveston, undertaken by members of the Houston Under Water Archeological Society in 1991, prior to formation of The Laffite Society in 1994, and not long after owners Dale and Diane Olson had acquired the property. In the video Dale Olson interviews Sheldon Kindall, current Laffite Society Member, also associated with the Houston Under Water Archeological Society. Sheldon discussed findings of the search with input from Diane Olson and Lou MacBeth, the focus of which was evidence of occupation by the Laffite commune during the years 1817-1820.

As reported, numerous cisterns were found on the property and in 1984 a well (one of 3 shown on a ca. 1817 map of the island) was excavated to a depth of 11 feet, and at a depth of 3 feet an asphalt slab-like “patio”, thought to possibly be from the Laffite era, was detected.

MAISON ROUGE ARTIFACTS

Second-Vice-President Wil Zapalac volunteered to obtain excavated items from the Maison Rouge site in the possession of former Laffite Society members with archeological experience, Andy and Becky Hall, who, due to conflicting commitments, were unable to carry out the lengthy processing of the items.

LAFFITE EXHIBIT

President Jim Nonus announced that the Galveston County Historical Museum plans to mount an exhibit on the Laffite era. The Laffite Society has been invited to participate.

AUGUST 14TH PROGRAM

Program Chairman Lou MacBeth announced that a presentation by Jean L. Epperson and Sheldon Kindall, long-time Laffite Society researchers on the failed 19th Century French settlement on the Trinity River, Champs d’Asile, will take place Tuesday, Aug., 14, at 6:00 p.m. at Simpson’s Galleries, 2413 Strand.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks extended to Third Vice-President and Hospitality Chairman, Lizette Gaudin (Najarian), and to George Najarian for the buffet refreshments; to Member at Large Kay Schwartz for the special punch beverage; to Lou MacBeth and Nancy Beaman for the video set-up and commentary, and to Simpson's Galleries for use of its premises as meeting space.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no other business of the day, the general meeting of The Laffite Society of July 10, 2007 was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

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

\dk:8/7/2007

File

MINUTES
August 14, 2007
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
Simpson's Galleries
2413 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: Jim Nonus, President; First Vice-President, Lou Graves MacBeth; Second Vice-President, Wil Zapalac; Third Vice-President, Lizette Gaudin (Najarian); Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Diane Olson, Parliamentarian; Press Director, Dave Roberts

BOARD ABSENT: Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Historian (office vacant)

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Lucia Bonno; Stephen Broadstone; Ed and Betty Connor; Korbin Creager; Frank and Connie Dryden; Pam Gilbert; Sheldon Kindall; Ondree Kuhn; Linda Kuhn; Sybil Marler; Don and B.J. Peak; Rob and Carolyn Peterson; Ginny Roberts; Tom Shehan; Betty Wilson

VISITORS: Pat and Beth Aucoin; Marla Drost; Charlie Gordy; Richard Gregg; Al King; Larry and Jan Porter; Peter Stines

Call TO ORDER

President Jim Nonus called the general meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. with welcoming remarks to members and visitors.

MINUTES

The Minutes of July 10 were e-mailed by the President and were not read at this meeting. No changes or corrections were offered by members as of this date.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By written report from Treasurer, Nancy Beaman, as of July 10, the balance in the account was \$2,875.06; ending balance August 14, \$2,885.04. One new membership on file from Frank and Connie Dryden.

MEMBERSHIP

Second Vice-President, Membership Chairman Wil Zapalac reported 70 memberships on file, with 6 organizations.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Champ d'Asile researchers and long-time Laffite Society members Jean L. Epperson and Sheldon Kindall presented a talk on their on-going efforts with members of the Texas Archeological Society to locate the site in the area of the Trinity River of the short-lived settlement of French exiles from Napoleon's army who had arrived on the coast at Galveston with aspirations of establishing a "utopian", socialistic society.

Jean introduced the speaker, Sheldon Kindall, retired NASA physicist and archeological steward of the Texas Archeological Society, who provided narration for the film "*Liberty County in 1816*", produced by the Liberty County Historical Commission.

Sheldon gave a chronological account of the events surrounding the 1818 ill-fated settlement which was finally routed by the Spanish, providing descriptive hand-outs of certain research sources:

- 1) Champ d'Asile, No. 9, November 24, 1818, to Col. Don Antonio Martinez, Gov. of the Province of Texas: a report by Capt. Don Juan de Castaneda, commandant of the "division that marched upon the enemies located in the areas of the Trinity" (orig. document in Spanish in the Same Houston Regional Library, Liberty, TX) (Hand-out)**
- 2) *Napoleon and the American Dream* (France, 1976), by Ines Murat, published in English in 1981 by Louisiana State University Press, ISBN 0-8071-0770-0. (Contains good information on Champ d'Asile and Jean Laffite)**
- 3) *Sketches of Early Texas and Louisiana* by James L. Shepherd, published by University of Texas Press, 1966, Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 66-27357. (Contains translated news articles from Aug. 22 and 29, 1841 mentioning the site of the French settlement).**
- 4) Documentation from a Professor Marcel Morand supporting a 1936 state marker of the site, now lost.**
- 5) *Napoleon's Soldiers in America*, by Simone de la Souchere Delery, 1972, ISBN 0-911116-58-3**
- 6) Reference to a "first report" on the French incursions into Texas and Louisiana, and to Jean Laffite, submitted by William Lee to John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State under President Monroe, January 20, 1818. This report, not located, contains data used by Ines Murat in her book, *Napoleon and the American Dream*, mentioned above.**

Visitors in attendance associated with on-going search for artifacts and for the site of the settlement were: Charles Gordy, Beth and Pat Aucoin, and Richard Gregg. The film depicted drawings of historical artist Peter Stines from Anahuac, TX, who was also a visitor at the meeting.

SEPTEMBER 11TH MEETING – “*Samuel Bangs, 19TH Century Printer*”

The President announced that the September meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. at The Strand Theatre, 2317 Ship’s Mechanic Row (across from The Tremont House hotel).

R. Dale Olson, co-founder of The Laffite Society, ex-officio President, and current Advisory Board Member, will speak on Samuel Bangs, 19th Century printer who started *The Galveston Daily News*.

A \$5.00 donation is suggested to cover refreshments.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks extended for buffet refreshments/beverages and committee assistance to 1) Third Vice-President/Hospitality Chairman Lizette Gaudin (Najarian), Jim Nonus; Ginny Roberts, and Lady Elizabeth Glover Galloway. 2) Visitor, Marla Drost who smoothly handled the Power-Point projection for the film. 3) Simpson’s Galleries for making their premises available for the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business of the day, the August 14th, 2007 general meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:8/29/2007

**MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
October 9, 2007
SIMPSON'S GALLERIES
2413 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550**

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jim Nonus; First Vice-President, Lou Graves MacBeth; Second Vice-President, Wil Zapalac; Third Vice-President, Lizette Gaudin; Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keys; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Historian (office vacant)

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ed and Betty Connor; Frank and Connie Dryden; Lady Elizabeth Galloway; Pam Gilbert; Ondree Kuhn; Linda Kuhn; Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski; George Najarian; Larry and Jan Porter; Ginny Roberts; Petty Wilson

VISITORS: Charlie De Rome; Victor Moncebaiz; Daryl Olson; Ella Pennington

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. with a welcome to members and visitors.

MINUTES

No Minutes taken due to public lecture held on September 11 meeting date.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Nancy Beaman presented a hand-written report, as follows: Beginning balance September, \$2,885.04; ending balance in September, \$2,969.93; beginning balance in October, \$2,969.93; ending balance this date, \$3,018.15

BRIEF DISCUSSION ON PIERRE LAFFITE GENEALOGY

Dr. Reginald Wilson spoke briefly on the genealogy research done by Laffite Society member Diane Burkett, fifth generation great-granddaughter of Pierre Laffite.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION ON SAMUEL BANGS

First Vice-President, Program Chairman Lou Graves MacBeth presented a talk on the extensive research she has done on the family of Samuel Bangs, entitled, "*The Rest of the Story*". This was a follow-up of the September presentation at Galveston's Strand Theatre by Dale Olson and MacBeth on the life of Samuel Bangs, the first printer in Texas.

HOLIDAY PARTY

President Jim Nonus reminded members that the annual Laffite Society Holiday Party will be held Sunday, December 9, 2007.

FIELD TRIP TO MEXICO

In December, members will discuss a possible special event trip to Soto de la Marina and Saltillo, Mexico, following up on recent research into Mexican revolutionary activities and the travels of Samuel Bangs.

PRESERVING VIDEO TAPES

Advisory Board Member R. Dale Olson suggested that members consider transferring video tapes of previous presentations to a CD file.

SOCIETY MINUTES FOR ROSENBERG LIBRARY

Dale Olson recommended that at some point a copy of the Society's Minutes, dating from its inception in July, 1994, be donated to the Laffite collection in the Rosenberg Library.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Program Chairman Lou Graves MacBeth announced that Laffite Society Editor Don C. Marler will give a talk at the November meeting on the Society's publication, *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, its description, goals, types of subject matter accepted for inclusion, etc.

BOARD MEETING IN NOVEMBER

A meeting of Executive Officers may be scheduled in November.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks and appreciation were extended to Laffite Society Hospitality Committee members for buffet and beverage refreshments and set-up to Lizette Gaudin, Betty Connor, Lady Elizabeth Galloway, Pam Gilbert, George Najarian, and Wil Zapalac, and to Simpson's Galleries for making available their premises for the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the general meeting of Oct. 9, 2007 was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

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

\dk:11-2-07

MINUTES
November 13, 2007
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
Simpson's Gallery
2413 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jim Nonus; Third Vice-President, Lynette Gaudin; Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Press Director, Dave Roberts

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President, Lou Graves MacBeth; Second Vice-President, Wil Zapalac; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian (office vacant)

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Lady Elizabeth Galloway; Sheldon Kindall; George Najarian; Sybil Marler; Rob and Carolyn Peterson; Larry and Jan Porter; Betty Wilson

VISITORS: Dan Cote (former member); Bill and Lynette Haaga; Marilyn Harris; Alex Karilanovic

CALL TO ORDER

Following the customary gathering at 6:00 p.m. of members for refreshments, the President called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. with a welcome to members and visitors and an announcement that the December 9th holiday party invitations were printed this date and would be mailed out this week.

Members were asked to pick up their copies of *The Laffite Society Chronicles* and to sign the list showing they had done so.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Laffite Society Archivist Ed Jamison introduced the evening's speaker, Don C. Marler, the Society's Editor of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, with a brief description of his biography and literary record.

Don's main topic of the evening was *The Chronicles* – covering a short history of its development which includes 26 issues published since 1995. Recapping stipulations for submitted material, he also offered suggestions for authors, emphasizing the need to maintain a high quality of research:

- 1) Authors should expand the periphery of their research interests and choose from the many other historical figures contemporary with the Laffites in the early 1800s, such as Aaron Burr, Vice-President in the

Jefferson administration, who fatally shot Alexander Hamilton in a duel, and who conspired to conquer New Orleans and make it the capital of a new empire west of the Allegheny, of which, it is claimed, he vowed to be “king.

- 2) Authors should take care to identify clearly objective content presented as opposed to what may be speculative.
- 3) Publications should be documented as thoroughly as possible.
- 4) Utilize the end-note format rather than footnote style.
- 5) No limitations on length of articles
- 6) Submit material for publication in *Microsoft Word*, although hand-written material will be accepted if there is no other choice.
- 7) Use the *Chicago Manual* as a standard for bibliographic notes.
- 8) Omit pagination.
- 9) Employ more than one proof-reader before submitting articles.
- 10 Send photos to Editor separately (*i.e.*, do not include them in text).

Don will provide at a future meeting copies to members of a Policy Procedure covering requirements for authors. In closing this part of his talk, he emphasized the necessity for keeping the quality of publications high, stating that it is *The Chronicles* as well as the contents of the Society’s Archive that will insure the preservation of academic integrity in research and respect of the scholarly community.

As a second part of his presentation, Don discussed two other areas of his own research interests: 1) the NEUTRAL ZONE, a 500 square mile area west of the Sabine River, active between 1806 and 1819 as a refuge for, among others, freebooters and outlaws, and even today a remote part of Texas where those absconding from the law may remain “lost” for years – no questions asked. (See Don’s book, *The Neutral Zone: Backdoor to the United States*.)

2) The RED BONES – a little known, mixed minority community of Indian and Caucasian people. (See also by Don Marler *Redbones of Louisiana*.)

Don’s presentation was followed by brief comments by Ed Jamison and Jeff Modzelewski in appreciation of Don’s contributions and on the challenges of editorial management as described by Jeff, former Editor of *The Chronicles*.

BUSINESS MEETING:

MINUTES:

Copies were sent via e-mail to members.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

No report was available due to absence of Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP

The President announced that currently there are 77 membership listings, with 7 organizations, and 102 persons.

SOME GOALS FOR *The Chronicles*

- 1) Submit a full set of *The Chronicles* to the Smithsonian Institute and to the Rosenberg Library. Obtain original drafts of each issue to reproduce copies where necessary.
- 2) Offer a copy to the Texas History Center at the Rosenberg Library

ON-LINE INQUIRIES REGARDING LAFFITE GENEALOGY

Discussion followed on finding a volunteer from the membership to answer on-line questions regarding descent from the brothers Laffite.

The President suggested preparing a questionnaire to obtain genealogical information from persons who claim descent.

HOLIDAY PARTY PLANS

ACTION: 1) Invitations to be sent out as soon as possible. 2) Dave Roberts will take photos at the party, some of which may be used in a future issue of *The Chronicles*. 3) Lizette and the Hospitality Committee will coordinate the party buffet and set-up with Bistro Lecroy. 4) Dorothy to write a report of the party for *The Chronicle*. 5) Decorations, etc., etc. – to be assigned.

UPCOMING SPEAKER

Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson volunteered to contact Member-at-Large Diane Burkett, descendant of Pierre Laffite, to see if she would like to speak at a future meeting

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Thanks and appreciation to Lizette Gaudin and George Najarian, Jim Nonus, and Lady Elizabeth Galloway for buffet and beverage arrangements, and to Simpson's for use of the Gallery for the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The general meeting of November 13, 2007 adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by:

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresp. Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk:11/15/2007