

**MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
January 8, 2008
SIMPSON'S GALLERIES
2413 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; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Press Director, Dave Roberts.

BOARD ABSENT: Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; 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 P. Modzelewski

MEMBERS=AT-LARGE: Ed and Betty Connor; Frank Dryden; Sheldon Kindall; Harry and Anne Forester; Ondree Kuhn; Linda Kuhn; Kathy Modzelewski; Rob and Carolyn Peterson; Larry and Jan Porter

VISITORS: Frank Danforth Dick; Andrew Stevens

CALL TO ORDER

Following a gathering at 6:00 p.m. for refreshments, the President called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. with a welcome to visitors Andrew Stevens from England and Frank Danforth Dick from Texas City, TX, the latter a distant relation to the family of James Campbell, known as Jean Laffite's "lieutenant" from about 1810 to 1820. Mr. Dick stated that early family members started in New Orleans as possible outfitters or ship chandlers. One Dick relative became a Federal judge involved in prosecution of some of Laffite's men.

MINUTES

There was no meeting in December. A report on the Society's annual Holiday Party December 9 was prepared by President Jim Nonus and appeared along with photos as a news piece in the *Scenes* column of *The Galveston County Daily News* Monday, December 31, and will also be published in the next issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Nancy Beaman, presented a verbal report showing a balance of \$1,400 more after payment of all party expenses than was on file in 2006 during the holiday season.

MEMBERSHIP

No report was available, although a number of new memberships are on file, along with renewals for 2008, now due.

FIELD TRIPS

First Vice-President/Program Chairman Lou MacBeth presented for discussion a list of possible field trips, with a positive response from members present as follows:

1) Sam Houston Regional Library (Liberty, TX), a definite choice, but may be deferred until 2009; Don and Sybil Marler's Home, Montgomery, TX (a Saturday talk, date to be determined, on Don's archaeological experiences in Jerusalem; 3) New Orleans, LA Jan., 2009 for the Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans; Grand Isle, LA; Cuba, provided license to travel is granted by the U.S. Government.

Jeff Modzelewski suggested a trip to the Matagorda, TX area and Palacios to do some Laffite research and enjoy the surroundings.

Linda Kuhn will use her contacts to research requirements to travel to Cuba, as well as to scope out the current conditions of Grand Isle following the Katrina disaster, and Jim will contact historical society people in Grand Isle; the Secretary will provide Linda Kuhn with correspondence to date re Cuban travel; Kathy will look into travel conditions in New Orleans; Jean Epperson will check on dates available to travel to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center

VIDEO ON LAFFITE GENEALOGY

Discussion followed on a video interview January 11, 2008 at Lee College in Bayrown, TX, intended for a possible television airing on The Discovery Channel. Members of The Laffite Society were invited to attend. A report on this event will be given in due course.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks extended to Lizette Gaudin, Hospitality Chairman, Jim Nonus and others for refreshments, beverages, and set up/take down and to Jim Nonus and Simpson's for allowing the Society to use its space for the meeting.

The Secretary, who was absent this date, thanks Lou MacBeth and Jim Nonus for notes taken on which these Minutes are based.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business the general meeting of Tuesday, January 8, 2008, adjourned.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording and Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:1-20-2008

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MINUTES
February 12, 2008
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
Simpson's Galleries
2413 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jim Nonus; First Vice-President, Lou Graves MacBeth; Third Vice-President, Lizette Gaudin; Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Second Vice-President, Wil Zapalac; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson; Jeffrey P. Modzelewski; R. Dale Olson

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Ed and Betty Connor; Dan Cote; George Dersheimer; Frank and Connie Dryden; Lady Elizabeth Galloway; Bill and Lynette Haage; Sheldon Kindall; Walter Modzelewski; George Najarian; Rob and Carolyn Peterson; Larry and Jan Porter

VISITORS: Jean Goodwin; Charles (Chuck) and Cody Hix; Jeff Rabek

CALL TO ORDER: Following a gathering at 6:00 p.m. for refreshments and conversation, the President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with an introduction of visitors and welcome to all. Secretary Dorothy Karilanovic and Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson (not present) received Valentine Day birthday salutations.

MINUTES: Approved on motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT: In the absence of Treasurer Nancy Beaman due to family illness, First Vice-President Lou MacBeth reported she had deposited membership dues in the Society's account.

MEMBERSHIP: In the absence of Second Vice-Present Wil Zapalac, away on a work assignment, Lou MacBeth reported that a 2008 membership list was now available.

ARCHIVE REPORT: Archivist Ed Jamison recommended that copies of the Minutes be included in future publications of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, the proposal of which was approved on motion.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION ON LAFFITE ALIASES: Program Chairman Lou MacBeth announced the evening's topic as a discussion on the various aliases possibly used by Jean Laffite. Surname of Billot (used by Jean Laffite); Jean Thomas; Lorenzo Ferrer; David Campbell; Wesley Clinton MacOrr (these last two used by Jean and Pierre Laffite respectively); Capt. Hillare (see p. 83 of William Davis' *The Pirates Laffite*); Mortimer Wilson (see *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, Oct., 2006 for two versions of the story of the alleged Wilson alias, taken from Charles W. Hayes' work *History of the Island of Galveston*, Vol. 1, and a 19th C. novella by an unknown author entitled *Laffite or the Baratarian Chief, A Tale Founded on Facts, New York, 1828*.) Lou provided copies of the article that appeared in *The Chronicles* written by Laffite Society Secretary Dorothy Karilanovic.

THE HIX BROTHERS SEARCH FOR LAFFITE CONNECTIONS: Visitors Charles and Cody Hix spoke briefly about their continuing search for genealogical links to Jean Laffite in the New Orleans and Donaldsonville, LA areas.

CHAMP D'ASILE INVESTIGATION: Laffite Society Member at Large and archeologist Sheldon Kindall announced that an investigation of a possible Champ d'Asile site will be held on March 15th.

PROGRAMS: According to Program Chairman, Lou MacBeth, Nautical Archeologist Tom Oertling will speak at the Society's March meeting on Tuesday, March 11.

Members will travel to the Brazoria County Historical Museum on April 14, for the monthly meeting, scheduled on a Monday rather than the usual second Tuesday of the month. Members will prepare program information on *Contemporaries of Laffite* for the May meeting. Editor of Publications, Don C. Marler, is scheduled to give a talk in the spring on his archeological dig in Jerusalem and environs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Thanks extended to Lizette Gaudin (Najarian), George Najarian, Jim Nonus, Pam Gilbert, and Lady Elizabeth Galloway for buffet and beverages, and to Simpson's Galleries for use of their premises as meeting space.

MEETING ADJOURNED: There being no further business of the general meeting of February 12, 2008, the President adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk:2/27/2008

MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2008
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
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 McD. Karilanovic; 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: Jeffrey P. Modzelewski

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ed & Betty Connor; Dan Cote; George Dersheimer; Frank & Connie Dryden; Pam Gilbert; Robert Gorham; Bill & Lynette Haage; Clifford Johnson; Linda Kuhn; Ondree Kuhn; Kathy Modzelewski; Walter Modzelewski; George Najarian; Don & B.J. Peak; Rob Peters; Larry Porter; Ginny Roberts; Kay Schwartz; Tom Shehan

VISITORS: Al King; David Olsen; Sandy Yearout

CALL TO ORDER: President Jim Nonus called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. following the customary social gathering for refreshments, and welcoming remarks to visitors Sandy Yearout and David Olsen.

MINUTES: There were no corrections or changes to the Minutes of February 12.

TREASURER'S REPORT: A written report was submitted showing a balance in the Society's account of \$2, 002.00.

LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES: The President announced that the February, 2008 issue of the Society's publication, *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, is available and can be picked up and signed for by members in attendance this date.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS: First Vice-President and Program Chairman Lou MacBeth announced a special event trip to the Brazoria County Historical Museum for the Society's monthly meeting to be held on Monday, April 14, hosted by Member-at-Large and Curator at the Museum, Mike Bailey. Travel directions will be available in due course. Lou called for members to read up on Laffite contemporaries for discussion at the May meeting. The Secretary cited a good source for reading is Bill Doree's *Profiles in Pillage: Galveston Privateers, 1816-1822*, pp. 53-64 ("*Selected Biophiles of Privateer Captains*"),

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Tom Oertling, Professor of history and nautical archeologist at Texas A & M University, Galveston, gave a power-point presentation on the excavation in the Galveston Ship Channel of a Civil War packet boat, *The Denbigh*, of which he was a co-principal investigator. The project was under the auspices of the Institute of Nautical Archeology and Texas A & M University, hosted by Texas A & M University at Galveston.

The vessel was a stealth blockade runner, a 162 ton, side-paddle steamer, 195 ft. in length, with a 4-foot draft and paddles 16-17 feet in diameter, used during the Civil War in runs between Havana, Mobile, Alabama, and Galveston. On or about Feb. 25, 1865, at the end of the War, it ran aground and was subsequently captured and burned by Union forces, the crew having escaped to shore.

The raising of the vessel and subsequent nautical investigation of its structural parts was conducted from about 1999 to 2002. Former Laffite Society member and nautical archeology researcher Andrew Hall was instrumental in creating detailed and clarifying computer graphics of various mechanical aspects of the vessel.

27TH ANNUAL GULF SOUTH HISTORY CONFERENCE: Speaker of the evening, Tom Oertling, announced that the Gulf South History Conference will take place at the Galvez Hotel in Galveston, October 1-4, 2008. Members of the Laffite Society are invited to present papers as was the precedent at a prior conference several years ago. The conference hosted by Texas A & M University at Galveston “welcomes all researchers and scholars to propose papers, panels, roundtables, performances, and workshops exploring all aspects of the history and cultures of the Gulf South and Caribbean Basin”.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The President extended thanks and appreciation to Hospitality Chairman Lizette Gaudin (Najarian), to George Najarian; Lynette Haage, and Pam Gilbert for this date’s refreshments and set up. The Society also thanks Jim Nonus and Simpson’s Galleries for use of its premises for the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED: There being no further business of the day, the meeting of March 11, 2008 was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

DOROTHY MCDONALD KARILANOVIC
Recording/Corresponding /Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk:amended 3/16/2008

**MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
April 14, 2008
SPECIAL EVENT TRIP
BRAZORIA COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM
ANGLETON, TX**

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Mike Bailey, George Dersheimer, Lizette Gaudin (Najarian), Bill and Lynette Haage, George Najarian, Jim Nonus, Dale and Diane Olson, Dave Roberts

In lieu of a regular session, The Laffite Society held its April meeting at the Brazoria County Historical Museum, with Laffite Society Member and Curator of the Museum, Mike Bailey, officiating as host.

Mike presented a program entitled "*Man in a Box; Remembering a Person's Life from a Donation*". In his talk he was able to demonstrate how an interesting and informative historical narrative can be developed from donated collections of personal objects and other memorabilia

Following the 10:30 a.m. presentation, members adjourned for lunch and attendance at other nearby sites of historical interest recommended by Mike: the Sea Center in Lake Jackson, Tx, 77566 (979-292-0100); Lake Jackson Museum (249 Circle Way, Lake Jackson, Tx, 979-297-1570); and the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science (400 College Blvd., Clute, Tx, 77531, 979-265-7831

Submitted by,

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

\dmk:5/6/2008

MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
May 13, 2008
SIMPSON'S GALLERIES
2413 Strand
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jim Nonus; First Vice-President, Lou Graves Olson (formerly MacBeth); Second Vice-President, Wil Zapalac; Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

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

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson; Jeffrey P. Modzelewski; R. Dale Olson

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Frank & Connie Dryden; Lady Elizabeth Galloway; Bill & Lynette Haage; Clifford Johnson; Sheldon Kindall; Ondree Kuhn; Linda Kuhn; Kathy Modzelewski; Walter Modzelewski; Don and B.J. Peak; Jan Porter; Sandy Yearout

VISITOR: Al King

CALL TO ORDER: President Jim Nonus called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. following the customary social gathering for refreshments at 6:00 p.m. Reading of Minutes and Treasurer's Report waived.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: "ASSOCIATES OF LAFFITE"

Ex-Officio President, current Advisory Board Member and speaker of the evening R. Dale Olson talked about a number of contemporaries of the Laffites associated with their activities while they were on Galveston Island from ca. 1817-1820, some of which are as follows:

- 1) Bartolemy LaFon, well-known New Orleans architect and engineer, thought to have designed and built Jean Laffite's island house, Maison Rouge.

- 2) **James Campbell, of Irish descent, described as Laffite's "right-hand lieutenant", settled on Virginia Point on Galveston Bay as a farmer after Laffite left Galveston. Was said to have been buried there after his death in 1854.**
- 3) **Stephen Churchill, a pilot who guided ships into the channel at the island's east end in 1840; first individual to obtain land on the island as a settlement following the departure of the Laffites.**
- 4) **Charles Cronea, alleged to have been a cabin boy on a Laffite ship; lived on Bolivar Peninsula, died in 1893 and is buried in High Island where was established a few years ago an historical marker at his grave site, created by former Laffite Society member Joel Kirkpatrick, a *Galveston Daily News* reporter.**
- 5) **Benjamin Doliver (also known as "Crazy Ben"); colorful island character known to have casually displayed quantities of doubloons – died in the early 1850s.**
- 6) **Burrell Franks, a hunter, whose wife maintained a boarding house on the island during the Laffite era, and who died in 1885.**
- 7) **John Lambert, described as a Laffite "lieutenant" – was in the butcher's trade in 1842.**

Others mentioned in Dale's talk: Andrew Roach; William Snyder; Anson Taylor (after whom Taylor Lake in the Clear Lake, Houston area is named); an individual with the surname of Blanchard; J.O. Dyer, well known Galveston writer who collected numerous stories, many undocumented, about persons said to have known the Laffites and their contemporaries (info on file in the Rosenberg Library at Galveston); Luis de Aury and Francisco Mina, filibusterers and revolutionaries who occupied briefly the isle before the arrival of the Laffites; two persons known as Lacassinier and "Nick the Greek" about whom to date nothing much is known.

In closing, Dale urged members having an interest to take up further study on these historical persons as a new research direction that could yield valuable results for the Society's archive.

JERUSALEM TALK JUNE 14: Editor of Publications of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, Don C. Marler, will give a talk and video presentation on a recent archeological dig in which he participated in Jerusalem, Saturday, June 14, in Montgomery, TX. E-mail directions for the special event trip, as well van transportation info

will be provided. The event will supercede the Society's regular monthly meeting.

CUBAN TRAVEL: Results on application for travel to Cuba deferred.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Thanks and appreciation are gratefully extended to Jim Nonus, Lynette Haage, and Lady Elizabeth Galloway for tonight's buffet and beverages, and to Simpson's Galleries for allowing use of its premises for the meeting.

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

Submitted by,

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

\dmk:6-2-2008

**SPECIAL EVENT TRAVEL
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
Saturday, June 14, 2008
MONTGOMERY, TX**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jean L. Epperson; Sheldon Kindall; Don and Sybil Marler; Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski; Walter Modzelewski; David and Lou Graves Olsen; Dale and Diane Olson; Robert and Carolyn Peterson

GUESTS: Troy Marler, brother and co-presenter of the event and Troy's wife Carmen Marler.

OBSERVATIONS ON ISRAEL
A Presentation by
DON C. MARLER
& TROY MARLER

A video/talk was held at the home of Laffite Society Editor-of-Publications Don C. Marler and his wife Sybil on Saturday, June 14, in place of the regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

Don's talk was based on observations made during his first trip to Israel from February to March 9, 2008, with additional information included based on "fact checking." According to Don's write up of the trip, copies which members in attendance received, the purpose of the travel was "to participate in an archaeological dig with James Tabor and Shimon Gibson on Mount Zion." The trip grew out of Don's interest in Dr. Tabor's book, *The Jesus Dynasty*

Don stated that in the dig he, himself, found "many pieces of broken pottery and mosaic tile, several jug handles, and the bowl of a 15th century pipe used to smoke opium. Also discovered by others were "several coins going back at least to the 6th century." Don's dig partner also found a "widow's mite – a very small coin."

Following the talk, members enjoyed a sumptuous buffet hosted by the Marlers at their Montgomery, TX home.

A special report and photos of the trip prepared by Dale and Diane Olson will appear in an upcoming issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.

Correction version 7-19-2008/d.Karilanovic:7-6-2008

Corrected 7/31/08
"Haage to "Haaga"

MINUTES
July 8, 2008
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
The Panama Lofts (Lobby)
25th and Strand
GALVESTON, TX 2008

BOARD PRESENT: Jim Nonus, President; First Vice-President, Lou Graves Olsen; Third Vice-President, Lizette Gaudin; Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

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

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: R. Dale Olson; Jeffrey P. Modzelewski

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Dan Cote; George Dersheimer; Frank & Connie Dryden; Harry & Anne Forester; Bill and Lynette Haaga; Clifford Johnson; Kathy Modzelewski; Walter Modzelewski; Ginny Roberts; Tom Shehan

VISITORS: Wayne Cox; Doris Dodson; Al King; Josie Soto

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Ex-officio President/Editor of Publications/ current Advisory Board Member, and newly elected Archivist Jeff Modzelewski presented an overview on Laffite history intended as a "synthesized, coherent introduction" or as a "primer" for new members and others needing familiarity with the Society's research.

In his speaker's role on behalf of the Society, Jeff stated he has so far presented the information to several other organizations – the Daughters of the Republic of Texas-Sidney Sherman Chapter, and to two Rotary groups.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS: On motions approved by acclamation, the following persons were elected to the Board for 2008-2010; President, Ed Jamison; First VP, Jim Nonus (Programs); Second VP, Kathy Modzelewski (Membership); Third VP (Hospitality), Lynette Haaga; Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Editor of Publications, Don C. Marler; Archivist, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes (consent pending); Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz (consent pending); Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian, Ginny Roberts; Privateer-at-Arms (nominal); Wil Zapalac

NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS: Ex-officio President Kathy Modzelewski and current Editor of Publications, Don C. Marler, were added to the Advisory Board, also including Jean L. Epperson, Pam Keyes, Jeff Modzelewski, Gene Marshall, R. Dale Olson, Robert Vogel, and Dr. Reginald Wilson

E-MAIL ADDRESSES: A list was circulated at the meeting for members to add and update e-mail addresses.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRESIDENT: Following remarks of thanks and appreciation for the opportunity to have served as first officer of the Society, exiting President Jim Nonus introduced new Board President Ed Jamison. In his acceptance comments, Ed offered as one of his goals the suggestion to try and attract the interest of younger members in consideration of eventual attrition of the Society's founders, some having served now for several decades. Ed stated he would call a meeting of new officers in the near future.

JANUARY, '09 FIELD TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS: Second Vice-President Kathy Modzelewski stated she is researching information for members to attend the annual meeting of The Louisiana Historical Society.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Thanks and appreciation extended to out-going Third VP Lizette Gaudin for her contributions as Hospitality Chair, and for tonight's refreshments, and also to new Third VP Lynette Haaga, George Najarian and Jim Nonus.

MEETING ADJOURNED: There being no further business of the general meeting of July 8, 2008, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

DOROTHY MCDONALD KARILANOVIC
Recording/Corresp. Secretary,
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:7/23/08

**THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
NOMINATION
OF NEW OFFICERS
FOR
AUGUST, 2008 thru JULY, 2009¹⁰**

MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO CONSIDER SERVING ON THE SOCIETY'S BOARD, AND TO SUBMIT NAMES FOR NOMINATION. WE WILL VOTE ON NEW OFFICERS AT OUR JULY 8, 2008 MEETING.

CURRENT BOARD:

**President, Jim Nonus
First Vice-President - Lou Graves Olsen (Programs)
Second Vice-President – Wil Zapalac (Membership)
Third Vice-President – Lizette Gaudin (Hospitality)
Secretary – Dorothy McD. Karilanovic
Treasurer – Nancy Beaman
Editor-of-Publications – Don C. Marler
Archivist – Ed Jamison
Coordinator of Research – Gary Fretz
Coordinator of Research – Pam Keyes
Press Director – Dave Roberts
Parliamentarian – Diane Olson
Historian (office vacant)
Captain-at-Arms – (office vacant)**

THE CURRENT NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF JIM NONUS, LIZETTE GAUDIN, AND DOROTHY KARILANOVIC. ANY MEMBER WISHING TO ADD THEIR NAME TO THIS LIST, PLEASE CONTACT JIM ON LINE, OR AT SIMPSON'S ANTIQUE GALLERIES, 2413 STRAND, GALVESTON, TX 77550.

\dmk:6-14-2008

**MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
AUGUST 12, 2008
SIMPSON'S GALLERIES
2413 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550**

BOARD PRESENT: President, Ed Jamison; First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Third Vice-President, Lynette Haaga; Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian, Ginny Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Second Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Editor of Publications, Don C. Marler; Archivist, Jeffrey P. Modzelewski; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Privateer at Arms, Wil Zapalac

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: R. Dale Olson

VISITORS: Wayne Cox; O'Hara Creager (Olson's granddaughter); Al King

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting came to order at 6:31 p.m. following the customary social gathering for refreshments at 6:00 p.m. Program Chairman Jim Nonus introduced the speaker for the evening, John Trojanowski, President of the Galveston Fencing Club, who has an interest in the history of fencing and dueling along the Texas Gulf Coast.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: *FENCING FROM SURVIVAL SKILLS TO SPORT*

The speaker gave a general talk on the development of the art of fencing from the Middle Ages to the 19th Century, touching on the fascinating social and cultural customs associated with the skill particularly in the 19th Century and including dueling, military applications and the beginnings of fencing as a sport. He accompanied his talk with an interesting array of weapons, and with several antiques he owns (small sword *ca.* 1790; a *colichemard ca.* 1720; a saber *ca.* 1840, as well as a few replicas (rapier, broadsword), antique fencing equipment (foils) and examples of modern sport fencing. To heighten the interest of his audience, John allowed members to handle the various weapons exhibited.

NEW BUSINESS

MINUTES: The Minutes of July 8 were read and approved by members present.

TREASURY REPORT: No report was available due to records still pending.

ANNUAL BANQUET DATE: Members in attendance decided to keep the week day of the annual holiday social in 2008 as a Sunday rather than change it to Saturday, which may be a future option.

ENTERTAINMENT AT HOLIDAY SOCIAL: First Vice-President and Program Chairman Jim Nonus reported that a group of professional entertainers will present a "sing-through" of some 15 songs currently being developed under his direction and others for a musical stage production based on French and Laffite era themes.

ARCHIVES: President Ed Jamison spoke about the need for members to keep in mind the goal of seeking a new location to store and preserve the Society's Archives.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The President extended thanks to Third Vice-President/Hospitality Chairman Lynette Haaga, to Bill Haaga, Jim Nonus, Lady Elizabeth Galloway, and to various members in attendance for set-up and provision of tonight's refreshments and beverages. Members are reminded to contribute to the refreshment fund at each meeting. Those who wish to help with set up and take down of table and food arrangements, or to bring food items may contact Lynette or Jim prior to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

CUBAN TRAVEL: Member at Large and Attorney Linda Kuhn reported on her on-line research on U.S. Government regulations for application to travel to Cuba. Her search focused on visas for historical research and educational purposes which would require probably as a minimum submittal of an itinerary; a stated number of persons on travel; a well detailed agenda of goals intended with an outline of associated scholarly activities planned on a daily basis, as well as the name, title, etc. of an academic contact in Cuba.

Linda suggested that members form a committee to draw up an agenda. Once this is done, she can then proceed to apply for visas.

MEETING ADJOURNED: There being no further business of the day, the meeting of August 12th, 2008 was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresp. Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:8/20/2008