

MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
General Meeting
January 11, 2000
The Eiband Gallery
2201 Post Office St.
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Editor of Publications/Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director, George Najarian; Coordinator of Research, Will Zapalak; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President, Dave Roberts; Second Vice-President, Judy Dolfi; Third Vice-President (office vacant); Historian, Bernadette Foley; Archivist, Don Marler

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Mike & Jerry Eubank; R. Dale Olson; Kileen & Richard Prather; Richard R. Rasche; Margie & Norman Sachnik; Arthur Wilcox; Jeanette & Don Wood

GUEST: Al King

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Minutes of October 12 were not read by the Secretary or approved due to time constraints. Minutes of Nov. 9, 1999 were approved as read to members by the Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski, reported a balance of \$1,962.00, less cost of postage (approx. \$250.00) for latest issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, Aug., '99.

LAFFITE E-MAIL

Members were reminded that they could subscribe to Andy and Becki Hall's e-mail Listbot address. The purpose of this list, according to Andy, is "to share information of interest to Laffite Society members, such as meeting schedules, research techniques, and inquiries about source material."

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CORRESPONDENCE

The President reported receiving cards and holiday greetings from Patrick Lafitte of France, Robert & Kathleen Vogel, and an interesting newsletter from Jack & Karin Ramsay.

NEW TRANSLATION OF *THE JOURNAL*

The latest word on when Prof. Gene Marshall's new translation of *The Journal of Jean Laffite: the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story* will be available for purchase is between March and May of this year.

NEW ACQUISITIONS FOR THE ARCHIVE FROM PATRICK LAFITTE

The following xeroxed documents from French archives were donated:

- 1) Samples of Pierre's and Jean's signatures
- 2) Baptism certificates for Pierre & Jean (1772 & 1782, respectively)
- 3) Passport application (May 5, 1802) from Bordeaux to Louisiana for Pierre Lafitte (sic), including brief physical description
- 4) Biography and description of military service of Jean Joseph Amable Humbert, 1880
- 5) List of ships captured by French corsairs at Guadaloupe (1804-1806), which were conducted to Cuba
- 6) List of various individuals named Jean and Pierre Laffite, with differing spellings of the surname, who had applied for passports, mostly in the mid-1700s.
- 7) Letter to French ambassador of U.S. confirming Dominique You's attack against the English at Baracoa, Cuba, July 29, 1807
- 8) Two certificates of residence showing that a Pierre Lafite (sic), age 28 (born 1771) lived in Santo Domingo
- 9) Letter by Pierre Lafitte (sic) to Louis Antoine Levêque regarding the vessel "Renard" of which Lafite was the owner
- 10) Marriage certificate, Feb. 8, 1797, of Pierre Sauvage and Marguerite Gerot, with Jean Lafitte (sic), of Port-au-Prince, as witness
- 11) Letter discussing goletta, "Mary," captured by French corsair vessel, "General Ferrrand," and one discussing an estimation of the value of the prize for Pierre Lafitte (sic), owner of the "General Ferrand."
- 12) May 25, 1806 (National Archives of Paris) - four documents discussing claims made to various prizes
- 13) Colorful promotional page (possibly a theatrical flyer) with title of *Sancho Pança sur L'Île Barataria - en Images (Sancho Panza on the Island of Barataria)*

NATIONAL MARKER FOR LAFFITE

Advisory Board Member, Jean L. Epperson, reported that the President of the Contraband Days buccancer group in Lake Charles, LA, Mr. Ben Zaleski, had confirmed that funds would be available for the Jean Laffite national marker to be erected in Lake Charles. Ms. Epperson stated that on Dec. 27 she had submitted an inscription and historical description, which she had researched and prepared herself, to the Division of Historical Preservation, Office of Cultural

Development in Baton Rouge, LA. Upon approval and pending completion of the marker, it will be shown during a public ceremony the first weekend in May, 2000, during the annual Contraband Days event.

1820 LAFFITE PAINTING - SEARCH CONTINUES

Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson reported that, during a telephone conversation with Mr. William Simpson, antiques and auction dealer of the Simpson Auction Gallery in Houston, the latter stated that he had no knowledge of an 1820 painting of Jean Laffite, executed by an unknown painter in South Carolina on a wooden surface, 20 by 24 inches in dimension.. According to Laffite family correspondence, the painting is thought to have been either loaned or given to a Galveston resident in the 1960s during a visit to the island by John Andrechyne Laffite, alleged great-grandson of Jean Laffite.

SPECIAL EVENTS

R. Dale Olson mentioned possible plans for a special event trip to Baton Rouge, LA, April 28 and 29, during which time, as an invited speaker, he will present a talk to the Louisiana Genealogical Society. Information on local lodging in the St. Francisville area was shown to members present.

OLSON TRIP TO CINCINNATI, ST. LOUIS, MO. & ALTON, ILLINOIS

In lieu of a special presentation, R. Dale Olson spoke on recent travel for library search for biographical information on John Telfer, supposed designer/woodcut artist of the famous artistic rendition of a uniformed Jean Laffite, made popular by E.H. Suydam's colorful drawing in Lyle Saxon's *Laffite the Pirate*, published in 1930. Two brothers, John and Robert, both artists, were identified and samples of their works were examined by the Olsons, Dale and Diane, who came to the opinion that Robert's style of work, rather than John's, seemed to resemble more closely that of the Laffite picture.

The Olsons also visited the Fosterburg Cemetery outside of Alton, Il., where many believe Jean Laffite may be buried in a now unmarked grave.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the General Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

DOROTHY MCDONALD KARILANOVIC
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

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MINUTES
General Meeting
The Laffite Society
February 8, 2000
The Eiband Gallery
2201 Post Office St.
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Kathy Modzelewski; Second Vice-President, Judy Dolfi; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Editor-of-Publications/Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director, George Najarian; Coor./Research, Wil Zapalac; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President, Dave Roberts; Third Vice-President (office vacant); Historian, Bernadette Foley; Archivist, Don Marler

ADVISORY BOARD: Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Stephen Broadstone; Joe Dolfi; Jerry Eubank; Mary Jane Najarian; Richard and Kileen Prather; Richard Rasche; A.D. Tilton; Arthur and Marcia Wilcox; Betty Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jeff Modzelewski reported a balance in the account of \$1,918.00.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The President reminded members to send in their dues and stated that Membership Chairman, Second Vice-President Judy Dolfi, would be sending out notices in the near future.

BOOK PURCHASE

- R. Dale Olson mentioned two new titles he had purchased for his library:
- 1) *The Memoirs of Lafitte or the Baratarian Pirate*, a novel written in 1826 by Mortimer Wilson of Westchester, New York
 - 2) A publication on Luis Aury, written in 1965, entitled *La Presencia de Luis Aury en Centro América*, by Hector Humberto Samayoa Guevara
 - 3) A Ph.D. Dissertation on Xavier Mina

SPECIAL EVENT TRIP

Discussion on upcoming trip to St. Francisville and West Feliciana Parish, LA, Apr. 28, 29, 30, to include a visit to The Myrtles Plantation. Jerry Eubank volunteered to research info on hotels, restaurants, and sites of historical interest.

NEW TRANSLATION OF *The Journal* . . .

Advisory Board member Reginald Wilson reported that Professor Gene Marshall's new translation of *The Journal of Jean Laffite: the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story* will be published in the following format: an introduction of 34 pp., followed by the translation of the text and three indices of persons, places, and the names of ships.

1820 PAINTING OF LAFFITE - Search Continuing . . .

Advisory Board member Dr. Wilson reported that he had recently found among the Jean Laffite memorabilia at The Sam Houston Regional Library in Liberty, Texas a photo of a painting possibly of Jean Laffite. The photo of the painting was developed and printed in Spartanburg, North Carolina in 1866. It shows the figure of a man with long side whiskers, in full front view, with hands positioned across his body at about waist level, wearing a broad-brimmed hat, a long-sleeved jacket, and a shoe-string neck tie over a light colored shirt. The wide frame of the paintings appears to be of wood and the painting itself, for the purpose of taking the photo, seems to have been placed standing up against a white wooden wall, perhaps of someone's front porch.

According to Dr. Wilson, Mr. William Simpson of The Simpson Antiques and Auction Gallery in Houston, stated that he thought he had seen this particular painting at one time and that he had remembered it as being laid on a poorly prepared canvas that had perhaps been exposed to the elements.

It is to be noted that the 1820 painting of Laffite referred to in correspondence of Audrey Lloyd in previous Minutes was said to have been done on a wooden surface about 20 x 24 inches in dimensions.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

"St. Francisville Parish: Rosedown and The Myrtles Plantations"

by

Stephen Broadstone

Member-at-Large Stephen Broadstone presented a talk on his trip to West Feliciana Parish, LA, with emphasis on his visits to 1) The Myrtles Plantation, one of the ten most "haunted" homes in the nation, according to the Smithsonian Institute, and 2) Rosedown Plantation, where 85% of the original contents from the 1850s remain, and gardens are patterned after those at Versailles, France. In support of his talk, Mr. Broadstone provided packets of xeroxed copies of interesting architectural details of the above homes, as well as maps and lists of hotels and restaurants in the St. Francisville area. Members were also treated to a viewing of personal photos of interiors of The Myrtles and to two texts entitled 1) *Ghosts Along the Mississippi* by Clarence Loughlin (1948), now out of print, and 2) *Plantation Homes of Louisiana and the Natchez Area* by David King, Gleason Collection, 1982, Louisiana State University Press.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The President extended thanks on behalf of members to Diane and Dale Olson for providing refreshments for the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the General Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

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A. V.

MINUTES
General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
March 14, 2000
The Eiband Gallery
2201 Post Office Street
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Kathy Modzelewski; Second Vice-President, Judy Dolfi; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Editor-of-Publications/Treasurer Jeff Modzelewski; Coordinator of Research, Wil Zapalak

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President Dave Roberts; Third Vice-President (office vacant); Press Director, George Najarian; Archivist, Don Marler; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Parliamentarian, Diane Dolfi

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Stephen Broadstone; Joe Dolfi; Richard & Kileen Prather; Don Peak; Richard Rasche; Norman & Margie Sachnik; Betty Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

The General Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of the February 8 General meeting were approved as read to members present by the Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jeff Modzelewski reported a balance in The Laffite Society account of \$1,858.00

CHRONICLES

Editor-of-Publications Jeff Modzelewski requested of the Secretary summaries of the July through December, 1999 Minutes to include in the upcoming issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.

LAFFITE MARKER FOR LAKE CHARLES

Advisory Board Member Jean L. Epperson reported that the Contraband Days Buccaneer group of Lake Charles, LA had approved her proposal for a joint effort to fund a Jean Laffite national marker for the Lake Charles, LA area, costs to be divided as follows: \$200.00 from The Laffite Society and \$1,000.00 from the Contraband Days group. The marker, containing a historical description of Jean Laffite, was researched and written by Jean L. Epperson approved by the Division of Historical Preservation, Office of Cultural Development in Baton Rouge, and will be dedicated at an event sponsored by the Contraband Days Buccaneers the second weekend

in May. President Kathy Modzelewski read Ms. Epperson's inscription to members present and extend thanks to her on behalf of The Laffite Society for the generosity of her efforts and good will gesture in researching and preparing the marker for the state of Louisiana.

NEW TRANSLATION OF *THE JOURNAL* . . .

Professor Gene Marshall has sent off galley proofs February 18 to EX LIBRIS Publishing Co. of his recent translation of the French handwritten document, *The Journal of Jean Laffite: the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story*, to be available for purchase in about three weeks. For inquiries,, an E-mail address was given for the publisher, as follows:
WWW.xlibris.com Telephone: 1+800-xlibris.

SPECIAL EVENT TRIP

Member-at-Large Stephen Broadstone volunteered to contact The Myrtles Plantation in St. Francisville, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana to arrange for dinner reservations at Kean's Carriage House Restaurant and a tour of the plantation house for the April 28-30 special event trip planned by Laffite Society members. The President urged those planning to take part in this trip to make their reservations as soon as possible.

LUCIEN FONTENELLE

Continuing his on-going search to verify the authenticity of the historical information given in *The Journal* . . ., alleged to have been written by Jean Laffite, Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson reported he had received information on the family of Lucien Fontenelle who was, according to Jean Laffite in *The Journal* . . ., p. 93, "a commercial agent for the Indians." Dr. Wilson reported that Jean Laffite's grandson, Leon, married Lucien Fontenelle's granddaughter, Mary Pauline Fontenelle. Dr. Wilson is in the process of gathering more information on the Fontenelle family history which he hopes to make public in due course.

SCHOONER *PEGASUS*

Advisory Board Member Jean L. Epperson read a paper she had prepared on the 36-ton schooner *Pegasus*, from information obtained from 1) the U..S. Federal Archives 2) the Ships' Registry and Enrollments of New Orleans; 3) *The Louisiana Historical Quarterly*; 4) New Orleans Ship Lists by M.P. Reider and N.G. Reider.

1802 FOREIGN PASSPORT APPLICATION FOR PIERRE LAFFITE (INCLUDES BRIEF PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION)

Secretary Dorothy Karilanovic reported she had recently translated a one-page document in French provided by Member-at-Large Patrick Lafitte of Corneilla del Vercol, France, which is an application for foreign travel for Pierre Laffite, dated May 2, from Bordeaux, France to Louisiana, for the purpose stated: ". . .to join the rest of his brothers." The document is in the format of an official form from the "Councillor of State, Prefect of the Department of Gironde," with pertinent information entered in longhand. The Secretary acknowledged with thanks assistance in the translation from French scholar and linguist Prof. Gene Marshall relating to information pertaining to Pierre's physical description and to the interpretation of the method of historical dating used during the French Revolution period and in this document. A copy of the translated document with original French text will be entered in The Laffite Society archive.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The President extended thanks to Kileen and Richard Prather for the evening's refreshments.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the General Meeting of February 8 was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

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MINUTES
General Meeting
The Laffite Society
April 11, 2000
The Eiband Gallery
2201 Post Office St.
Galveston, Texas 77551-5662

BOARD PRESENT: President, Kathy Modzelewski; Second Vice-President, Judy Dolfi; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Editor-of-Publications/ Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski; Coordinator of Research, Wil Zapalac; Press Director, George Najarian

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President, Dave Roberts; Third Vice-President (office vacant); Archivist, Don Marler; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Stephen Broadstone; Joe Dolfi; Richard Rasche; Norman and Margie Sachnik; Betty Wilson; Arthur Wilcox

GUESTS: Ita B. Logue; Brenda Silverstein; Rita Wichlep

CALL TO ORDER

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

"TREASURE LEGENDS ALONG THE GULF COAST"

BY

CARROLL A. LEWIS, JR.

Advisory Board Member, Dr. Reginald Wilson, introduced the speaker for the evening: Carroll A. Lewis, Jr., author of the popular book, *Treasures of Galveston Bay*, published by Texan Press initially in 1966, then a 2nd edition in 1977 with five printings. Mr. Lewis spoke on his experiences as a traveler to South America, to the islands of Providencia and Santa Catalina off the coast near Colombia, S.A. which were for generations the stronghold of pirates. According to Mr. Lewis, Pilgrims arrived at Providencia and Santa Catalina in 1620 on *The Sea Flower*, sister ship of *The Mayflower*, where four fortifications were built.

Members were also presented with copies of historical information the author had written on the Texas Revolution for independence: 1) a 12-page booklet entitled *Texiana: Fort Anahuac: Birthplace of the Texas Revolution* and 2) a legal-sized, one page account of the view of Texas colonists at Anahuac 160 years ago of the initial causes of the revolutionary outbreak due to the

tyranny and despotic acts on the part of Col. John Davis Bradburn, a Kentuckian, who had joined the Mexican army and was commandant of the Mexican fort at Anahuac at that time in 1832.

MINUTES

The Minutes of March 14 were not read or approved due to the secretary's early departure from the meeting. Notes for the remainder of the meeting were taken by Editor-of-Publications, Jeff Modzelewski.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski, reported a balance in the account of \$2,442.45, plus \$65.00 undeposited funds, less costs of about \$350.00 for printing the next issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.

NEW TRANSLATION OF *THE JOURNAL OF JEAN LAFFITE: THE PRIVATEER-PATRIOT'S OWN STORY*

Editor-of-Publications Jeff Modzelewski reported that Prof. Gene Marshall's new translation of the French document, *The Journal of Jean Laffite: the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story*, would be available soon via the Internet under Xlibris publications.

LUCIEN FONTENELLE [sic] RESEARCH

Advisory Board Member, Dr. Reginald Wilson, reported he is still searching out a lead on Lucien Fontenelle's connection with the Jean Laffite family, and will report his findings if and when information becomes available. According to p. 93 of *The Journal . . .*, Lucien Fontenelle was a "commercial agent for the Indians." Dr. Wilson has stated that Jean Laffite's grandson Leon, married Fontenelle's grand-daughter, Mary Pauline Fontenelle (see Mar. 14 Minutes).

SPECIAL EVENT TRIP TO ST. FRANCISVILLE, LA

President, Kathy Modzelewski, presented copies to members of a basic itinerary she had prepared for those planning to travel to St. Francisville, LA April 28-30. A brief discussion followed on sign-up for the trip, hotel locations available, and on plans for a wine and cheese gathering the day of arrival for which Mrs. Betty Wilson volunteered to provide refreshments

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no other business, the General Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

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MINUTES
General Meeting
The Laffite Society
May 9, 2000
The Eiband Gallery
2201 Post Office St.
Galveston, Texas 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Kathy Modzelewski; First Vice-President, Dave Roberts; Second Vice-President, Judy Dolfi; Recording/Corresp. Sec'ty, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Editor-of-Publications/Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski; Archivist, Don Marler; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Third Vice-President (office vacant); Coordinator of Research, Wil Zapalac; Press Director, George Najarian; Historian, Bernadette Foley

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ron Broadstone; Stephen Broadstone; Joe Dolfi; Mike and Jerry Eubank; R. Dale Olson; Richard Prather; Ginny Roberts; Arthur Wilcox; Betty Wilson

GUESTS: Al King; Howard S. Winston, Sr.; Billie Winston; Howard Winston, Jr.

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m., following serving of refreshments at 6:00 p.m. In lieu of a special presentation for the evening, discussion continued on research in progress, prior to the general business meeting.

NEW GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION ON JOHN A. LAFFLIN/Laffite

Through recent research, Advisory Board Member Jean L. Epperson presented evidence obtained from the Railroad Retirement Board and U.S. Census Records revealing that John A. Lafflin/Laffite, long-alleged, self-proclaimed great-grandson of Jean Laffite, Privateer-Pirate, had been born in Omaha, Nebraska on June 4, 1893, the son of John and Mary Matejka, Bohemian emigrants. According to Ms. Epperson, while working as a lineman for the Missouri Pacific Railroad, John was noted to have used the name of Nafsinger in 1914, which he later stated was his step-father's name. Ms. Epperson further stated that, "For some mysterious and unknown reason, John filed a delayed birth certificate in April, 1947, claiming his name was JOHN ANDRECHYNE LAFFITE, and that his father was Leon Jean Laffite and his mother was Mary Pauline Fontenelle."

In support of Jean Epperson's recent and startling findings which have now cast further doubt on the authenticity of the controversial document, *The Journal of Jean Laffite: the Privateer-Pirate's Own story*, copies prepared by Ms. Epperson were made available to members of a short biography on John A. Laffite and a tentative chronology of his life, spanning the years 1893 to 1970, from birth to death.

Jean. Epperson also donated to The Laffite Society Archives a copy of a newspaper article from *The Baytown Sun*, Vol. 78; No. 161, Friday, May 5, 2000, entitled: "Pirate Still a Controversial Figure: Area Researcher Questions the Legitimacy of Pirate's Relatives," by staff writer Jeff Riggs. The article featured a photograph of Ms. Epperson in her library, and one of Director Robert Schaadt of the Sam Houston Library and Research Center at Liberty, Texas, where the controversial *Journal* and other Jean Laffite memorabilia are currently housed.

LUCIEN FONTENELLE

Advisory Board member, Dr. Reginald Wilson, presented further information on his research on correspondence between writer Audrey Lloyd and John A. Laffite's widow Lacey Seuratt Laffite, and on Fontenelle family history and their association with Jean Laffite's grandson, Leon Jean Laffite. According to Dr. Wilson, from a recent telephone conversation he had had with a descendant of one of Lucien Fontenelle's sons, there is no evidence in their family history of Mary Pauline Fontenelle being married to Leon, Jean Laffite's grandson

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MINUTES

Minutes of March 14 and April 11 meetings were approved as read to members by the Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jeff Modzelewski reported a balance in The Laffite Society account of \$2,777.45, less publication costs of the next issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, now pending.

ARCHIVE REPORT

Archivist Don Marler reported on extensive organizational work he and his wife, Sybil Marler, had completed in collating and cataloging the contents of The Laffite Society Archive over the past several months. Mr. Marler called for volunteers to continue with the collation, recording, and filing of documents, suggesting that they follow the procedures he has implemented for the sake of consistency.

BOOK EXCERPTS

Copies of excerpts from two books were offered for members' interest:
1) *Defense of a Legend* by Bill Groneman and 2) *Great Forgers and Famous Fakes* by Charles Hamilton

E-MAIL INQUIRY

A recently received e-mail inquiry from a woman in Rockville Center, New York, representing a Brandeis Women's University organization, requested information on "Jewish origins of Jean Laffite," referred to in a book on Jewish frontier settlers by Harold Sharfman.

Archivist, Don Marler, reported that he was in the process of contacting a Jewish genealogical group in New Orleans to see if there is historical documentation to validate a claim for Jewish origins, made by Jean Laffite himself, in *The Journal* . . . , alleged to have been written by Jean.

JEAN LAFFITE NATIONAL MARKER

Advisory Board Member Jean L. Epperson reported that a date for the dedication of the Jean Laffite National Marker in Lake Charles, LA, for which she had done the historical research and preparation, has not yet been decided upon. Discussions are under way between the Contraband Buccaneer group and city leaders as to the most appropriate location for the marker.

INQUIRY FOR SPEAKER

The President stated that The Galveston County Genealogical Society had made a request for a speaker from The Laffite Society to give a genealogical overview on the pirates Pierre and Jean Laffite.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR REFRESHMENTS

President Kathy Modzelewski called for volunteers to provide refreshments for the June meeting. First Vice-President Dave Roberts and Ginny Roberts offered to make this contribution.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The President and members extended their welcome, appreciation and thanks to the following persons

- 1) Stephen Broadstone for organizing tour reservations, gathering, and providing information for the recent special event trip to St Francisville, LA, April 28-30, during which time Ex-Officio President R. Dale Olson presented a talk on Laffite genealogy at the annual meeting of The Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society in Baton Rouge, LA.
- 2) Ron Broadstone for his contribution of photographs from the St. Francisville trip in April.
- 3) Don and Sybil Marler for their time and dedicated efforts to set up a cataloging system and procedures that can be followed by others who may wish to participate in the on-going organization of The Laffite Society Archives.
- 4) R. Dale Olson, for donating to The Laffite Society his honorarium presented by The Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society for his talk on April 29, 2000.
- 5) Visiting cousins of Dr. Reginald Wilson: Howard S. Winston, Sr. and Mrs. Billie Winston; and Howard Winston, Jr.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the General Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

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MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
General Meeting
June 13, 2000
THE EIBAND GALLERY
2201 Post Office
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Kathy Modzelewski; First Vice-President, Dave Roberts; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic, Editor-of-Publications/Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski

BOARD ABSENT: Second Vice-President, Judy Dolfi; Third Vice-President (office vacant); Press Director, George Najarian; Archivist, Don Marler; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Coordinator-of-Research, Wil Zapalac; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ron Broadstone; Stephen Broadstone; Susan Baker Hunger and John Hunger; Donald Peak; Richard and Kileen Prather; Richard Rasche; Virginia Roberts; Betty Wilson

GUESTS: Al King; Marjorie Rasche

MINUTES

The Minutes as read to the assembly by the Secretary were approved with a motion by Jeff Modzelewski, seconded by John Hunger.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jeff Mozelewski, reported a balance in the account of \$2,661.25.

THE CHRONICLES

Editor-of-Publications Jeff Modzelewski announced that the upcoming issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles* will be the last publication under his editorship. Publisher and current Archivist for The LS, Don Marler, has offered to accept a nomination for this important office.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2000-2002

The President suggested that members submit names of those whom they would like to see nominated for the new Board, for a slate to be presented at the July meeting.

FLAG DONATION TO LAFFITE SOCIETY ARCHIVES

The President expressed thanks to Dr. Reginald Wilson for his gift of the "Jolly Roger" flag to be displayed in The Laffite Society Archives.

PROFESSOR JEAN MARSHALL'S BOOK

Jeff Modzelewski reported that Island Books will have available for sale at cost Prof. Gene Marshall's new translation of *The Journal of Jean Laffite; the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story*: hard copies for \$21.00; soft, 12.00. Prof. Marshall will be available at a future meeting to sign copies as desired.

NEW BOOK ON GALVESTON

A new book of collected stories is available about "non-historical history . . .the "little" stories of people and events – legends, gossip . . ." The book, entitled *Galveston: Love, Legend and Downright Lies* was written by Gini Fendler, popular local history speaker, and former news reporter and writer Max Rizley.

BARATARIA BY LOUIS-JEAN CALVET

The Secretary spoke briefly about a book published in France in 1998 by French author Louis-Jean Calvet. Her comments focused on the final chapter entitled "The Laffite Dossier," in which the author recaps the principal genealogical "trails" of research concerning the origins of the Laffite brothers and their possible fates. The author also offers opinions based on his research regarding the authenticity of the controversial *Journal*, his conclusion being that the document was probably written by an English-speaking person, who then translated his thoughts into French. He cites several instances of so-called anglicized French, the incorrect use of French words based on what the typical English-speaking person might choose to express himself. He further states that the fact that most of the current researchers working on the document in this country have themselves been English-speaking natives may contribute to the belief that the document was written by a native French-speaking person, such as Laffite

THOMAS BEALE CIPHERS

The Secretary reported she had had no further correspondence since January of this year from Richard B. Smith and The Company, a small West Yorkshire, England research group, regarding their decision as to whether or not to announce their completion of the decipherment of the Thomas Beale codices.

'LOST' 1820s PAINTING OF JEAN LAFFITE

Dr. Reginald Wilson reported he had located information in correspondence of writer, Audrey Lloyd, that John Matejka (aka John A Lafflin/Laffite) had, in fact, himself created the painting of Jean Laffite, formerly attributed to an "unkown painter" in South Carolina in the 1820s.

PATRICK LAFITTE CORRESPONDENCE

A letter arrived from French member Patrick Laffite saying the he will send to The LS a "dossier" concerning Anne Louis de Tousard from French Archives, along with an analysis of the *Journal* by a "premiere handwriting expert in France."

MARSHALL'S TRANSLATION COMPARED WITH ORIGINAL

Dr. Wilson spoke on his observations of information obtained in Prof. Gene Marshall's recent translation of the *Journal* that was not in the original document, first published in English in 1958 by Vantage Press. He also briefly mentioned that John Matejka (aka John A. Lafflin/Laffite) was known to have "retraced" letters alleged to have been written by Jean Laffite.

JULES LAFFITE BURIED IN ST. LOUIS?

Dr. Wilson stated that his cousin Paul Gardiner plans to look for burial records in St. Louis of Jules Laffite, grandson of Jean Laffite.

MATEJKA GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Dr. Wilson reported he had written to a church in Le Sieur, Minnesota to see if they had records on Mary Matejka, sister of John Matejka (aka John Lafflin/Laffite), who had resided there as a nun. To date he has not received a response. He also stated he had tried to locate on the Internet persons in several states with the surname of Nafsinger who might have been descended from the Nafsinger who was John Matejka's step-father.

LUCIEN FONTENELLE

Continuing his search for information on Lucien Fontenelle, Indian courier mentioned in the *Journal*, Dr. Wilson brought for members' interest a genealogical list of Lucien Fontanelle, showing no evidence of a Mary Pauline Fontenelle as a descendant, alleged to have been Lucien's great-granddaughter and to have married Jean Laffite's grandson, Leon.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The President expressed thanks and appreciation to the following persons:

- 1) Don Peak for contributing photos of the St. Francisville, LA trip April 28-30, 2000.
- 2) Ginny and Dave Roberts for providing the buffet for this meeting's date.

VOLUNTEERS FOR REFRESHMENTS

The President called for volunteers to provide refreshments for the July meeting. As no responses were forthcoming, decision was deferred.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business the General Meeting of June 13, 2000 adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk

file

MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
General Meeting
July 11, 2000
The Eiband Gallery
2201 Post Office St.
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Editor-of-Publications/Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski; Archivist, Don Marler; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President, Dave Roberts; Second Vice-President, Judy Dolfi; Third Vice-President (office vacant); Press Director, George Najarian; Coordinator of Research, Wil Zapalac; Historian, Bernadette Foley

ADVISORY BOARD: Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Jerry and Mike Eubank; Jeanette Haydel; Sybil Marler; Gene and Bettie Marshall; Louise Marten; R. Dale Olson; Richard Rasche; Betty Wilson; Don Wood

VISITOR: Al King

CALL TO ORDER

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
by
GENE MARSHALL

“THE PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE”

Professor Gene Marshall, author of a recent, new translation of the document, *The Journal of Jean Laffite; the Privateer-Pirate's Own Story*, discussed the rigors of his experience relating to advertising procedures, costs, and publicity connected with the publication of his book entitled, *The Memoirs of Jean Laffite: from the Journal of Jean Laffite*, published by X-libris, 1999.

Following the special presentation, the General Meeting resumed.

ILLEGITIMATE SON OF JEAN LAFFITE

Archivist Don Marler showed members a photocopy sent to him by a distant relative of a man attired in 19th century dress alleged to be a descendant of an illegitimate son of Laffite. The photocopy will be entered in the archives.

PHOTOS OF NEW ORLEANS

Don Marler also reported he had received for The Laffite Society archives, from a Mr. Warren Stauffer, through an Internet contact, photographs taken in the French Quarter, New Orleans, at the Quadroon Ballroom, several of which were of portraits of young women of the 19th century, famous for their beauty.

NEW MARSHALL TRANSLATION

Several soft-cover copies of Prof. Gene Marshall's new translation of the *Journal* were made available for sale to members.

THE LAFFITES' BURIAL AT DZIDZANTUN, YUCATAN

Advisory Board member Dr. Reginald Wilson reported on research about the possibility of Pierre and Jean Laffite being buried at the church of Dzidzantun in the Yucatan. Ramiro, a student at the Presbyterian School of Theology in Mérida, was able to verify with the local priest at the church that 1) there were no burials in the church floor; 2) there were no names recorded of burials there before a new floor was placed 3) there are no records there or at Dzilam to indicate that the Laffites were buried there. The student, Ramiro, plans to do more investigation in this area of Yucatan during the summer months of 2000.

ADDENDUM TO CEMETERY ARTICLE IN *THE CHRONICLES*, Vol. VI, No. 1, 2000

Dr. Reginald Wilson requested that the following statement be entered in the record which might explain Jean Laffite's claim in his *Journal* that his brother, Pierre, was buried, or would be buried, in the Wesleyan Cemetery in Alton, Illinois: Due to closures of several cemeteries in the St. Louis area in 1847-1848, reburials were necessary. Dr. Wilson speculates that if Pierre Laffite had been interred originally in one of these, Jean Laffite probably could have known of this change well before Pierre's removal and reburial in the Wesleyan Cemetery.

LAFFITE'S DEATH ABOARD SHIP

Advisory Board member Jean L. Epperson stated that she had received an e-mail letter from Betje Klier, French language specialist and researcher of Champ d'Asile history, quoting a statement from *The Washington Gazette* dated April 23, 1823, that Jean Laffite had been killed in action aboard ship during capture of his 60 man crew by a British sloop in the Gulf of Mexico.

NEW WORK OF FICTION ON JEAN LAFFITE

R. Dale Olson mentioned he had purchased a mystery novel on Laffite, entitled *The Laffite Case*, by Ray Peters, published by Write Way Pub., 1997.

SLATE OF NEW OFFICERS FOR 2000-2002

A slate of nominees for office was presented by Jeff Modzelewski. President Kathy Modzelewski called for other names from the floor as candidates for office. Gene Marshall was nominated to the Advisory Board by Mike Eubank; motion by R. Dale Olson, seconded by Diane Olson; motion carried.

THE CHRONICLES

Don Marler, current Archivist and nominee for the position of Editor-of-Publications for 2000-2002, spoke briefly about new ideas for the publication, including one for an advertising policy.

R. Dale Olson suggested the idea of incorporating in a future *Chronicle* article the historical interview with James Campbell, close associate of Jean Laffite, with photographs of Grand Isle and Grande Terre, LA.

FUTURE PROGRAM TOPICS

The President called for suggestions from the floor regarding topics for future programs, as follows: The Slave Trade; Excavated Artifacts; Films on Laffite; the 1865 packet boat *Denbigh*.

SPECIAL EVENTS

President Kathy Modzelewski asked members to suggest possible sites for upcoming special event travel, as follows: New Orleans; Grand Isle/Grande Terre (a re-visit); Isle Dernier; Trinity River/Champ d'Asile site; Palacios, TX (The Luther Hotel); Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, Liberty, TX (a re-visit); Seguin, TX (Oct. 20) for the unveiling of Juan Seguín statue; Jefferson, TX; the Yucatan (Mérida, Dzilam de Bravo, Didzantun, etc.); Cartagena, S.A.; Cuba (archives).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The President extended thanks on behalf of the LS to Mike and Jerry Eubank for purchasing and setting up refreshments on short notice for the evening's meeting, and also to Betty Wilson and Jean Epperson for offering to provide the buffet for the August meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the General Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:7/11/2000

MINUTES
General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
August 8, 2000
The Eiband Gallery
2201 Post Office St.
Galveston, Texas 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President Jeffrey Modzelewski; Second Vice-President (Membership), Don Peak; Third Vice-President (Special Events), Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Co-Treasurers, Mike and Jerry Eubank; Historian, Jean L. Epperson

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President (Program Chairman), Judy Dolfi; Archivist (office vacant); Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Coordinator of Research, Kileen Prather; Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts

ADVISORY BOARD: Jean L. Epperson; Gene Marshall; Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Stephen Broadstone; Jeanette & Don Wood; Marcia & A.M. Wilcox; Betty Wilson

GUESTS: Al King; Bettie Marshall; Ralph Matthews

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Minutes of June and July, 2000 were not read.

FRENCH HANDWRITING SPECIALIST GIVES OPINION ON *THE JOURNAL*

The Secretary read a two-and-one-half page letter she had translated, addressed to French Member-at-Large Patrick Lafitte, from French handwriting specialist Gérard Panisett offering a preliminary critique of several pages of *The Journal of Jean Laffite: the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story*, as well as his opinion that *The Journal* is "probably a contemporary forgery." Mrs. Karilanovic also read a list she had prepared of other contents in a packet including this letter sent to The Laffite Society for the archive by Patrick Lafitte, as follows:

- 1) Letter from Gérard Panisett, French handwriting expert, along with two translations of Panisett's letter: one by Patrick Lafitte, and one by Dorothy Karilanovic.
- 2) Handwritten genealogical table of the Lafittes of Biarritz and descendants.
- 3) A 26-page, abridged diary by Pierre Laffitte [sic] written in 1794 (13 xeroxed pp. written in French, presumably in his own hand). Also included, a copy of the diary by Patrick Lafitte, in French and in his own hand: 6 pp.
- 4) Enlarged, xeroxed copies of birth/baptismal acts for Pierre, Louis, and Jean Lafitte of Biarritz: birth dates respectively - 1773, 1779, and 1783.

- 5) Enlarged, xeroxed copy of marriage act of Laurent Lafitte and Marie Daguerre, parents of Pierre, Louis, and Jean Laffite.
- 6) File consisting of early 19th C. correspondence in French and in original handwriting, letters printed in news articles, excerpts from the publication *Généalogie et Histoire de la Caraïbe* on the history and genealogy of Chevalier Anne Louis Tousard (born 3-12-1749; died 5-8-1817), a representative of the French royal government attached to the French consulate in New Orleans who occupied several consular positions in America and who was the object of vilification for his ties to French royalty. Collection includes an exchange of letters printed in 1814 in a local New Orleans newspaper between Tousard and Gov. William Claiborne, the latter expressing support and sympathy for Tousard.

After review by Gene Marshall, these documents will be entered into The Laffite Society archive at The Eiband Gallery.

VARIANT SPELLING OF SURNAME "YOU"

The Secretary referred to a brief discussion in Louis-Jean Calvet's book *Barataria* (p. 295) regarding the various spellings of the rather unusual French surname of "You," such as in Dominique You, as follows: Hiou, Hyou, Iou, Hioux, Youx. Author Calvet offers the hypothesis that Dominique You may have been the son of Alexander Hiou and Marie Gharau of Saint-Jean-d'Angély, France, and had a brother by the name of Brice (see p. 296) of *Barataria*.

STANLEY FAYE, AUTHOR-EDITOR

Advisory Board member and Laffite Society Historian, Jean L. Epperson, mentioned her interest in research into the sources of Stanley Faye's work "Privateers of the Gulf," which, although considered as a work of fiction was not published as such due to the numerous citations included in the work which seem to merit further examination. Ms. Epperson also referred to a paper entitled "Jean Laffite: Secret Treasure," and offered copies of an obituary for Stanley Faye, "widely known writer and former Beacon News historical editor," printed in *The Aurora Beacon News*, March 7, 1949.

LOUVIÈRE ART

Ms. Epperson brought for members' interest an art book entitled *Louvière Fine Arts*. Mr. Louvière is a painter and sculptor in the Lake Charles area, whose work which includes numerous landscapes, has been widely exhibited.

MEMBERSHIP FILES

The President announced the transfer of membership files to new Laffite Society Membership Chairman, Don Peak.

OFFICE DESCRIPTIONS FOR NEW BOARD

The President handed out the binders kept in the Archive which contain short descriptions of duties associated with each respective officer of the Board, these to be updated as necessary.

BANK AUTHORIZATION

The President requested that new co-treasurers Mike and Jerry Eubank place their signatures on file for check-signing purposes.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Members were reminded to keep their calendars open for the upcoming January 8 annual meeting in New Orleans of The Louisiana Historical Society where the author of a new book on Jean Laffite is scheduled to speak.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Robert Schaadt, Dir. of the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, TX, and Sally Reeves of the New Orleans Notarial Collection, both had articles published in *Provenance*. An article by author and Laffite researcher Robert C. Vogel also appeared in *Louisiana History*.

NEW MATERIAL FOR *THE CHRONICLES*

Editor-of-Publications Don Marler called for articles from members for the upcoming issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.

EDITOR-OF-PUBLICATIONS TO SPEAK

Laffite Society Editor-of-Publications Don Marler has been invited to speak at the Texas Archeological Society conference Oct. 27-29, on the subject of Fort Terán.

JOHN MATEJKA GENEALOGY

Advisory Board member Jean L. Epperson stated she had found on an original Social Security application the name of Mary Perlieu Fontenello, listed as the mother of John Matejka (a.k.a. John Lafflin/Laffite).

ROBERT C. VOGEL TO VISIT

Author, Laffite researcher, and member of the Laffite Society Robert C. Vogel and Kathleen Taylor Vogel will be in the Galveston area for the September meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the General Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:8/2000

MINUTES
General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
September 12, 2000
The Eiband Gallery
2201 Post Office Street
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeff Modzelewski; First Vice-President, July Dolfi; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Co-Treasurers, Mike and Jerry Eubank; Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian, Jean L. Epperson

BOARD ABSENT: Second Vice-President, Don Peak; Archivist (office vacant); Coordinator of Research, Kileen Prather; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ronald C. Broadstone; Stephen N. Broadstone; Joe Dolfi; Richard Prather; Richard Rasche; Ginny Roberts; Margie and Norman Sachnik; Betty Wilson

GUESTS: Jeff Abbott; Al King; Sybil Marler; Kathleen Taylor Vogel

CALL TO ORDER

President, Jeff Modzelewski, called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

WELCOMING OF GUEST

The President acknowledged and welcomed author Jeff Abbott of Austin, Texas.

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SPECIAL PRESENTATION

"THE GREAT STORM OF 1818"

by

ROBERT C. VOGEL

In view of the many events occurring on the island this month in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the devastating hurricane of September 8, 1900 that descended upon Galveston, causing catastrophic destruction and the death of more than 6,000 persons, Laffite researcher-author Robert C. Vogel presented a unique historical perspective of the hurricane of 1818 which also swept over the island, destroying many lives and habitations in the commune that

the Laffite brothers had established on the island in 1817. In his discussion, Mr. Vogel was able to show probable cause that, in addition to the mounting pressure of legal and political influences, the overwhelmingly destructive effects of the hurricane of 1818 marked a turning point in the careers of the Laffite brothers, thereby contributing greatly to the disintegration of their commune and to their eventual decision to abandon Galveston Island in May of 1820.

* * * * *

Following the special presentation, the General Meeting resumed.

MINUTES

The Minutes of August 8, 2000 were approved as read to members by the Secretary, with the exception of one correction.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance in The Laffite Society account was reported as \$2,942.99.

CHRONICLES

Suggestions for additions to *The Chronicles* were offered, discussed by Don Marler, Editor-of-Publications, and others, as follows: 1) a Letter-to-the-Editor column; 2) an Errata section; 3) inclusion of a list of policy statements; 4) a column referring readers to new book reviews (suggested by Robert C. Vogel).

SPECIAL EVENTS

Various upcoming special events were discussed: 1) Attendance of the annual meeting of The Louisiana Historical Society in New Orleans January 8, at which Laffite author Jack Davis will speak; 2) Seminar entitled "The French in Texas," to be held in Austin, TX the second week in March, at which Ex-Officio Laffite Society President R. Dale Olson has been invited to speak, along with Robert C. Vogel, and Patrick Lafitte of Corneilla del Vercol, France; 3) Trip to Yucatan in January, 2000, in the company of Robert C. Vogel and Kathleen Taylor Vogel.

NEW EDITION OF BOOK

Robert Vogel mentioned the re-publication of a nominally priced, attractively presented edition of Arsène La Tour's 1816 work on West Florida.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The President extended thanks on behalf of The Laffite Society to member Robert C. Vogel for his special presentation of the evening, and to Judy Dolfi for providing refreshments for the meeting.

VOLUNTEERS

The President called for volunteers to purchase and set up refreshments for upcoming meetings. Those wishing to provide this service were asked to notify him of choices of dates.

MEETING ADJOURNED

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

Submitted by,

DOROTHY MCDONALD KARILANOVIC
Recording & Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:10/7/00

MINUTES
General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
October 10, 2000
The Eiband Gallery
2201 Post Office
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

BOARD PRESENT: First Vice-President, Judy Dolfi; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanic; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: President, Jeff Modzelewski; Second Vice-President, Don Peak; Co-Treasurers, Jerry & Mike Eubank; Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator-of-Research, Kileen Prather; Archivist (office vacant)

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Richard Rasche; Norman & Margie Sachnik; Betty Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

First Vice-President Judy Dolfi called the General Meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the September 12th meeting as read to members present by the Secretary were approved with a motion by Diane Olson, seconded by Kathy Modzelewski.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current balance in the Laffite Society account was reported as \$3,002.99.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Third Vice-President and Special Events Chairman Kathy Modzelewski stated that she is awaiting registration forms for those members wishing to attend the annual meeting of The Louisiana Historical Society in New Orleans on Monday, January 8, 2001. The meeting is to be held at Tavern-on-the Park, on City Park Ave. Registration per person is \$60.00. According to Kathy, further information on hotel rates and other travel info will be sent in due course to members together with the Laffite Society Holiday Social invitation.

SIGN-UP LIST FOR REFRESHMENTS

After a short discussion, First Vice-President Judy Dolfi suggested that the Society consider purchasing a variety of chips, dips, drinks, etc. to keep in store to serve at future meetings. However, those who wish to provide other types of food at these times are welcome to do so and should notify the Society of the dates they wish to bring food. A decision to establish a regular sign-up list for provisions of refreshments was deferred until February 2001

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Motion tendered by Diane Olson, seconded by Kathy Modzelewski, to hold the annual Laffite Society Holiday Social, a “pot-luck” buffet at The Eiband Gallery on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2000. The Society will pay for main entrees and drinks, and members may bring dishes of their choice. An invitational flyer listing various food categories desired will be sent out to members.

MEMBERSHIP LIST AND LABELS

Decision announced to request a new membership list and mailing labels with members’ names for the Holiday party invitations from Second Vice-President and Membership Chairman Don Peak.

LAFFITE MARKER

Laffite Society Historian and Advisory Board Member Jean L. Epperson reported that certain city fathers of Lake Charles, LA want to place the Jean Laffite National Marker, researched and prepared by Ms. Epperson and co-funded by the Contraband Buccaneers of Lake Charles and The Laffite Society, in the Shiver Me Timbers recreation park in Lake Charles. However, due to the likelihood that this site would permit only limited visibility of the marker, a second location on the Lake front is under consideration.

BINDER COPY OF LS MINUTES FOR THE ARCHIVE

The Secretary reported that she was having a copy of a complete set of Laffite Society Minutes, dated from the inception of the Society in July, 1994, through July of 2000, placed in a binder in the LS archive at The Eiband Gallery. This record will serve as an historical outline of the Society’s business transactions, research activities, and special events, to be updated at intervals.

AUSTIN, TEXAS SEMINAR

Members were reminded of a seminar to be held in Austin, Texas, March 8, 2000, on “*The French in Texas*,” to be sponsored by the French-Italian department at The University of Texas. Ex-officio Laffite Society President R. Dale Olson and Laffite author and researcher Robert C. Vogel are scheduled to speak at the seminar.

ON-GOING RESEARCH DISCUSSION

In lieu of a special presentation for the evening, Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson continued his discussion on the genealogy of the John Matejka family, mentioning that John had had a sister, 14 months younger, named Rosemary, who had died at age 28, and who supposedly had been in a convent.

In addition, Dr. Wilson stated that a student with whom he has been in contact was still attempting to trace descendants in the Dzidzantun area near Mérida, Yucatan, of Lucie Allen, the French-speaking Mulatto woman who was known to have accompanied the Laffites to the Yucatan, and to have continued to live there after the alleged death of Pierre Laffite in 1821.

Regarding survivors of the hurricane that ravaged Galveston in 1818, Dr. Wilson raised the question of how to verify the number of persons who may have perished at the Champ d’Asile site during this hurricane, the storm supposedly lasting over three days, from September 13 through the 15th. What evidence exists for establishing the number of deaths which some assume were many?

Dr. Wilson also showed members xeroxed copies of various documents, such as 1) a commission for a Letter of Marque to Juan Salvador de Torres, signed in 1818 by Gen. A. Humbert; 2) the Le Brave list of Articles; 3) copies of death sentence pronouncements for acts of piracy for Robert Johnson (1819) and John Trickhart, both signed by President James Monroe.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the General Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:11/14/00

MINUTES
General Meeting
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
November 14, 2000
The Eiband Gallery
2201 Post Office
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeff Modzelewski; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Co-Treasurers, Mike & Jerry Eubank; Press Director, Dave Roberts

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

ADVISORY BOARD: None present.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ron Broadstone; Stephen Broadstone; Ginny Roberts; Richard Rasche; Norman and Margie Sachnik

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m

MEMORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Expressions of sympathy were offered by the President for member and ex-officio Press Director, George Najarian and his family, whose wife, Mary Jane, also a member, passed away suddenly on November 9.

MINUTES

Minutes of the General Meeting of October 10 were read to members by the Secretary and approved with a motion from Richard Rasche, seconded by Dave Roberts.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance in The Laffite Society account was reported as \$2,757.08.

CHRONICLES

Expenses for publication of *The Laffite Society Chronicles* have been reduced due to cost-cutting procedures under the new editorship of Don Marler.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The date of The Laffite Society holiday party will be held on December 12 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Eiband Gallery. The event will be a covered dish buffet.

Special Events Chairman Kathy Modzelewski called for suggestions of things to do, places to visit in New Orleans during the upcoming trip January 6-8, to attend the annual meeting of The Louisiana Historical Society. Among them, a possible visit to the new World War II Museum and a tour of the Garden District.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR REFRESHMENTS

The President extends thanks on behalf of members to Richard Rasche for providing the evening's refreshments.

OTHER BUSINESS

In lieu of a special program or discussion of on-going research, members joined in helping to prepare mailings including information on the January Louisiana trip, the upcoming holiday party in December, and copies of The Chronicles.

MEETING ADJOURNED

As there was no further business, the President called the meeting to adjourn.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McD. Karilanovic
Recording/Coordinating Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk

DECEMBER 12, 2000
LAFFITE SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY
THE EIBAND'S GALLERY