



The Laffite Society Chronicles

Volume XVII Number 1
February 2011

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

The Laffite Society is a not-for-profit organization devoted to the study of the privateers Jean and Pierre Laffite and their contemporaries, and to the geographical locales and chronological era associated with them.

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of the month (except for December)
at 6:00 pm to greet, meet and snack; the meeting starts at 6:30 pm
at Meridian Retirement Community
23rd Street and Seawall Blvd

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT.	ED JAMISON
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	JACK WATSON
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT.	KATHY MODZELEWSKI
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT	GINNY ROBERTS
RECORDING/CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	CAROL PETERSON
TREASURER.	NANCY BEAMAN
ARCHIVIST.	LARRY PORTER
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	ROB PETERSON
PARLIAMENTARIAN.	DIANE OLSON
COORDINATOR OF RESEARCH	PAM KEYES
CHRONICLES EDITOR.	DAN COTE
PRESS DIRECTOR.	DAVE ROBERTS

ADVISORY BOARD

JEAN EPPERSON	PAM KEYES
KATHY MODZELEWSKI	JEFF MODZELEWSKI
R. DALE OLSON	ROBERT VOGEL
REGINALD WILSON	

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual dues:

Student	\$ 15.00
Senior (Over 65).....	\$ 20.00
Institution	\$ 20.00
Individual.....	\$ 35.00
Family.....	\$ 40.00
Sustaining Member	\$100.00
Sponsoring Member.....	\$100.00
Life Membership (One Payment).....	\$300.00

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLES	PAGE
Editor's Page by Dan Cote	1
President's Page by Ed Jamison	2
Monthly Programs by Jack Watson, Program Director	3
Laffite Society Annual Holiday Banquet Photos by David Roberts.....	5
Looking for the Temple by Rob Peterson	6
The Saga of James and Mary Campbell, especially Mary by Jack Watson	10
Theodosia and Her Locket by Tom Linton	15
Galveston County Daily News Reprint	18

© 2008 By The Laffite Society. All rights reserved. Except for brief citations accompanied by proper attribution, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means-electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise-without the written permission of The Laffite Society.

The Laffite Society
Post Office Box 1325
Galveston, Texas 77553-1325
<http://thelaffitesociety.com/>

Editor's Page

Dan Cote
dancote1@comcast.net

Observations on Articles in This Issue

Jack Watson, our intrepid program director, has submitted a piece, *Monthly Programs*, that describes past programs and gives us a preview of coming attractions. The Society is strengthened by his efforts.

Rob Peterson in *Looking for the Temple* takes us on a geographic journey into Laffite's ports of call for his merchandise. Rob relates the fieldwork he performed in his search and the depth of literature research involved. I think you will find his article informative and interestingly presented.

In *The Saga of James and Mary Campbell*, especially *Mary* Jack Watson continues his development of the relationship between the Campbells, Laffite and area around Galveston Island. Jack brings in related personalities that give added color to that era. His field and literature search gives credence to his tale.

Speaking of adding color to the Laffite age, Tom Linton in *Theodosia and Her Locket* brings to light the hazards of travel in the early nineteenth century and the path that items take through the mix of cultures: Anglo, pirate, and Indian. Read it, I am sure it will whet your appetite for more.

The February 2011 issue of the COAST, published by the Galveston County Daily News featured an article based on a visit to Maison Rouge by the author Barbara Canetti. Dale Olson and Ed Jamison who presented thoughts on the site as well as an overview of the Laffite Society accompanied her. Laura Elder, editor of the COAST has given the Society permission to reprint that article.

Material Submission Notes

As an absolute last resort the editor will accept material that must be scanned. He prefers WORD or text documents with only elemental formatting. Photos and drawings presented in .jpg or related formats are also preferred.

The Laffite Yahoo Group

The **Laffite Society** maintains an Internet newsgroup on the social-networking site Yahoo. Group members can post text and upload documents and pictures of interest. The group is titled "laffite."

To join the Yahoo group, one must first have a (free) Yahoo account. To register, go to www.yahoo.com and follow the instructions. Make a note of your user ID and password for future reference.

Once registered, browse the groups for "laffite" and follow the instructions to request to join it. A group moderator must review and approve your request before you may join (so that we can exclude those who wish to join simply to post spam, promote their businesses, etc.).

If you have difficulty, e-mail Jeff Modzelewski at jeffiemod@gmail.com for assistance. However, please do not request assistance before you have a Yahoo account - a Yahoo account is a prerequisite for joining the "laffite" group. If you have a Yahoo account but cannot navigate the procedure to request to join the group, inform Jeff and he will send you via e-mail an "invitation" to join, which you then simply need to accept with a click of your mouse.

President's Page

Ed Jamisonzlife71@comcast.net

Welcome! To all of you, of course, but especially to the newest members of the Society. The past year saw a large number of new members join us in our pursuit of historical truth. And a decent merlot.

But as much as our organization is about information, I question just how effective we are at imparting info to our new members regarding some basics about the group. For instance, there is a vast amount of information about the Society and our namesakes on our home page. Simply type The Laffite Society or www.thelaffitesociety at any search site. This location features the usual data you might expect such as membership dues, slate of officers, meeting details, etc. But it also provides historical time-lines in the life of the Laffites and their contemporaries. There are genealogies, a bibliography, lists of publications, films, plays, etc. You can view the tables of contents from the Society's Chronicles dating back to the first issues in 1995. You will even learn why we spell our organization's name with two "f"'s and one "t" even though 'Spellcheck' tries to do just the opposite.

Then there is our web page, our vehicle for exchanging email about historical subjects of interest to our members. This can be accessed with the assistance of Jeff Modzelewski. Upon request Jeff will send you an email invitation to join the Laffite group on Yahoo. Do this and you will have access to the site at any time to enter data, ask questions or remark on the entries that are posted. I hardly recommend that you utilize these sites to fully realize the benefits they offer.

Speaking of benefits, one of the many unique features of the Society are the Chronicles, a copy of which you are presently reading. While many members join the organization for the social aspect and to learn more of history, others are also serious researchers, academes and writers. If you consider yourself in the latter category, or aspire to, please do not hesitate to offer any work that you feel will be of interest to our group. Articles may be submitted to our Editor of Publications, Dan Cote, at dancote1@comcast.net.

Finally, I want to thank Ginny Roberts for agreeing to assume the office of Third Vice President. She was overwhelmingly accepted to the post at January's meeting.

Please have a healthy and Happy 2011!

Monthly Programs 2010-2011

Jack Watson, Program Chairman

jack watson <cheryl@watson.comcast.net>

As program chairman of The Laffite Society my job is to ensure you have an interesting, entertaining, and educational experience each month at our meetings. In order to grow membership we must ensure that each visitor from the general public that attends our meetings is impressed with the quality of the program. Quality programs will also encourage regular attendance by current members of the Society. Our programs should have speakers from both within and outside our organization. I would like to ask each of our members to help me in the coming months. You might have an idea or know an acquaintance that you feel can bring a meaningful presentation to our group concerning the history of the Laffite brothers and their times. Or better yet, you might take a subject you like, research it, prepare a paper on it, and give a half hour presentation to the group as a program. It can be a lot of fun. There is no end to subjects to research and tales to tell, so just ask. If you think you would like to do this, or have any ideas on programs please contact me. I keep programs scheduled three to four months in advance. Right now I have openings from June to December 2011.

Here's a brief description of programs from the last part of 2010 and those on our schedule for the first part of 2011.

July 2010—**Tom Ortling**, professor of Marine Archaeology at Texas A & M Galveston campus, a former member of the Laffite Society, made a presentation on vessels that sailed the Gulf of Mexico in the early nineteenth century. This was a well received event with plenty of audience participation. Tom knows his stuff when it comes to maritime knowledge and we look forward to hearing from him again.

August 2010—I presented a program for the second part of my story on James and Mary Crow Campbell. James Campbell was one of Jean Laffite's top lieutenants during his stay on Galveston Island. He is one on Laffite's men that chose to stay on the island when Laffite left in 1820. I guess he was one of the first IBCs (islander by choice). As interesting as his story is, Mary's is even more interesting. That program is printed in this edition of the Laffite Chronicles.

September 2010—**Kirk Clark**, an avid historian and cartographer with concentrated interests in geography of Texas and Louisiana was the speaker for Sept. Kirk is a board member and official historian with Friends of Galveston Island State Park, and has a collection of maps that he brought along for his presentation. His talk concerned the topological changes to Galveston Island and bay system over the last two or three hundred years. His program brought many favorable comments. I don't know about you but I would like to see his maps again. I like maps.

October 2010—**Rob Peterson**, Technical Director for the Society, researched and made a presentation on the location of The Temple. The Temple is mentioned many times in Laffite related documents, but it seems no one today really knows exactly where it was. And it appears there was a Little Temple to boot. The Temple was used as Laffite's retail outlet for illegal contraband sales. Rob had excellent research for the subject and some of it was obtained on the ground in Louisiana driving around looking for the place! It was a great program and we look forward to more.

November 2010—The last program of the year was a presentation by **Jodi-Wright-Gidley**. Jodi is not only the director of the Galveston County Museum, she also co-authored the book Galveston a City on Stilts. She brought the Laffite Society up to date on the status of the museum after Ike, and a description of some of the museum artifacts

January 2011—**Jean Epperson** presented her new book to the group. Jean, a long time member

and former officer of the Laffite Society has recently had published her new historical research *Filibusters, Pirates and Privateers of the Early Texas Coast*. A panel of our members consisting of **Dale Olsen, Rob Peterson, and Mike Riley** made comments about their favorite subject in the book and peppered Jean with questions. Jean answered them all of course. It seems like there's not much Jean Epperson doesn't know about our favorite history subject.

Here's what we can look forward to for the first part of 2011.

February 2011—Laffite Society member **Helen Mooty** will present a program on the mother of Texas Jane Long. Jane Long was the wife of Dr. James Long the charismatic filibuster who made military camp at Bolivar during the time Laffite was in Campeche. Mrs. Long dined with Jean Laffite on Galveston Island and provides one of the few eyewitness descriptions of the Privateer Laffite. I'm looking forward to Helen's talk and hearing more about this famous woman's life.

March 2011—**Larry Porter**, Archivist for the Society, will present a program on the history of privateering. It will be interesting to hear the story on this controversial and internationally accepted form of apparent theft on the open seas. Oh well, all's fair in love and war.

April 2011—The Laffite Society has the opportunity in April to host a talk by **Bill Kroger**. Bill Kroger is a trial partner at the law firm of Baker Botts, LLP. He and Mark Lambert of the General Land Office are co-chairs of the Texas Supreme Court Historical Records Task Force. This task force was created by the Texas Supreme Court in 2009 and charged with studying the conditions of the Texas state court archives and recommending how the state can better preserve and protect these records. I have informed Bill that the Laffite Society is very interested in preservation of historical records and what can be done to enhance it. Galveston County District Court is a participant in the task force and has had favorable local publicity on the subject. They will all be invited.

May 2011—Former officer and current member of the Laffite Society **Don Marler** will make a presentation. Don is also former editor of the *Laffite Chronicles* and has written numerous books and articles on Texas and Louisiana history. Don's talk will be on Aaron Burr one of the most famous yet controversial persons in American history. His story is fascinating and once you hear it you will not wonder why he controversial.

A quality historical research group like the Laffite Society needs dependable quality programs every month. I look forward to hearing from each of you on your ideas and how you can participate.

Laffite Society Annual Holiday Banquet

Photos by David Roberts

Just a few of the participants. Don't they all look happy? If you were not there this year how about next year?



Larry Porter, Victor Lang, Nelson Smelker, Dale Olson' Ed Jamison, Jim Nonus (in center)



Ed Connor, Jack Watson, Rob Peterson, Diane Olson, Sandy Rushing



Judy Dolfi, Jim Mulligan, Marge Dersheimer, George Dersheimer



Lynette Haaga and Dale Olson 1



Linda Kuhn, Jack Watson, Cheryl Watson

Looking for the Temple

Rob Peterson

Reading through the literature on the activities of the famous Laffite brothers and their cohorts one finds quite a few events taking place at or near the "Temple". Apparently it was a popular site for many activities and it is often described as a large shell mound (midden), high and dry, with lots of big shade trees, and easily accessible on a navigable bayou in Barataria. The Laffites used it, among other places, to deal their smuggled goods and slaves. Some well reported skirmishes with the Laffites and the law authorities occurred around the Temple. Andrew Jackson sent Jean Laffite to the Temple to fortify it just before the Battle of New Orleans. But where was it?

In 1994 I spent several days on a small boat in the Barataria waterways and down the bay to Grand Terre. Among other activities, I looked for shell mounds that might be the Temple site. Except for the Fleming Cemetery, on an huge shell mound on Bayou Barataria near the town of Jean Lafitte, I found no candidates. The few locals I talked to assured me that the cemetery was not the Temple but they didn't know where it was. On a 2004 visit to a new Visitor's Center, just after the bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway on the way to the town of Jean Lafitte, a lady attendant told me that the Temple was in Lake Salvador, near the shore, and was now underwater. I realize now that in most Gulf coastal areas the bulk of the existing shells had been hauled away long ago for road beds or making lime. So Lake Salvador appeared to be the area but it looked likely I would have to spend more time in the literature to discover more precisely where the Temple site had been.

Of course the Internet is a good place to start but I never found anything giving much detail on the Temple location. Here's a typical catch¹ which gives little more than the Temple is somewhere in Barataria:

"... the clever Lafitte created one of this country's first and most successful retail outlets. Here, the wanting public could come to browse, to shop, to buy an endless contraband at exorbitantly reduced prices and take the treasures home in their conveyances that very afternoon. Requiring a place accessible to the general public, Lafitte, after careful consideration with brother Pierre, chose an ideal spot. Within the bayous were "islands" or chenieres -- both large and small --girthed by dense oak; because of their elevation, they often caught the seashells that floated in from the Gulf and, to that extent, their ground was carpeted with these shells. The largest of these was a well-known, very reachable one, halfway between New Orleans and Barataria Bay, referred to as "The Temple." It derived its name from the fact that hundreds of years earlier local Indians used it as a sacrificial altar."

Later, I found some more specific bits of information. In a book by Ray Thompson², he states : "We'll locate the Temple for you and point out its advantages to the smugglers. Right where Bayou des Allmandes (Allemands) enters Lake Salvador is a 'cheniere' ..." At least this was consistent with what the lady at the Visitor's center told me. In an article³ by Pam Keyes about one of Laffite's scrapes with the law she locates it "...near the Temple at Lake Barataria (now Lake Salvador), along a popular route to access plantations above New Orleans." This got me ambitious enough to look at some modern and readily available maps of the Barataria area that show a "Temple Bay" on the west side of Lake Salvador.

These same maps show the closest road ended on Bayou Gauche, some six miles northwest towards Des Allemands. On a 2008 automobile trip to the New Orleans area I took US90 through Des Allemands and then down to the end of highway 306 along Bayou Gauche. I didn't see any readily available transportation down to Temple Bay. I wished I had known about this in 1994 while I was boating nearby.

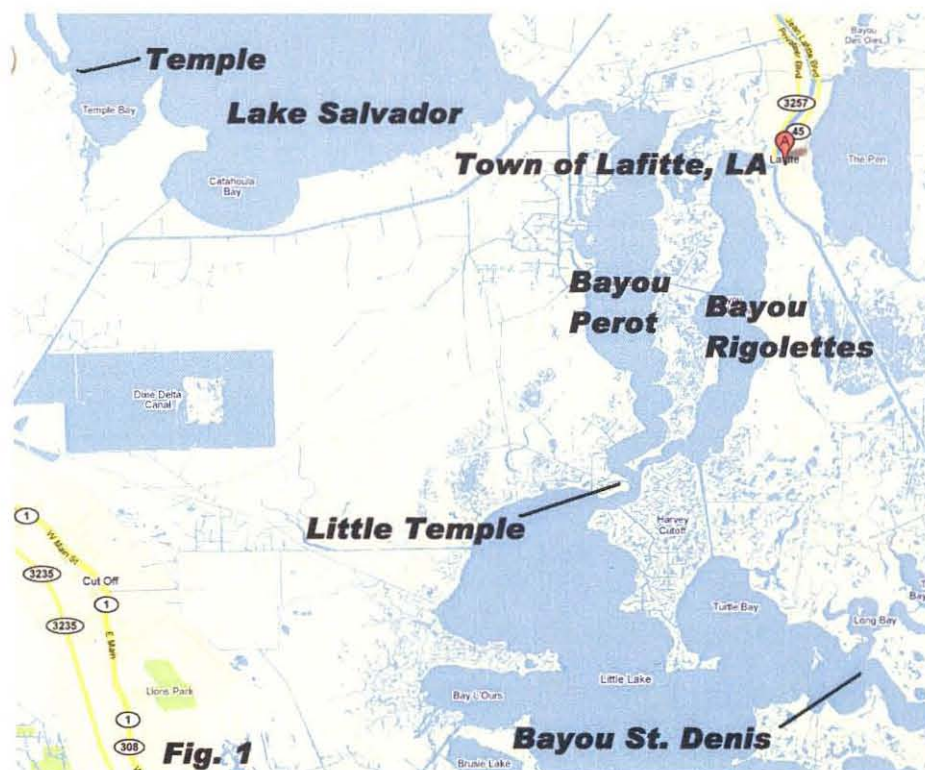
I ran across the next tidbit of information while going through the publications of the Laffite Study Group. An article⁴ references the 1814 Dec. 22 Andrew Jackson letter, instructing Major Reynolds to proceed to the Temple (with Mr. Jean Lafitte), "...a shell mound near Bayou St. Denis." Also, arms are to be sent and "...a chain to be put across the bayou below the Temple within half cannon shot." That

was interesting since Bayou St. Denis is well to the east of Lake Salvador and would be much more in line with an expected British approach to New Orleans. The western bank of Lake Salvador seems to me quite out of the way for someone trying to get to New Orleans from Barataria Bay.

Then I ran into a surprise: In an article about Dominique You⁵ I found "Perrin established the Temple and Little Temple, while Gambi and Beluche went out privateering". It also says the Temple (which one?) is "...about midway between Grand Terre and New Orleans" and that in the war of 1812 "...one battery was placed at the Temple." So now we have two Temples to locate and new questions arise as to what may have happened at either place.

I had never heard of a Little Temple and wondered if this was just some spurious report. Apparently not. I soon found mention of it in George Washington Cable's 1884 book⁶: "All along this coast there are vast heaps of a species of clam shell...One of them, in Barataria, distinguished from larger neighbors by the name Petit Temple 'the little Temple' removed of late years for the value of its shells..." and "...A notable group of these mounds...became the privateer's chief place of sale and barter. It was known as the Temple". In Jack Davis' recent book⁷ I found: "They sometimes held sales on the shores of Bayous Villars, Barataria, Rigolets (Rigolettes), Perot, and Lake Salvador. The Temple, on the western shore of Lake Salvador, was their principle trading post, but they also sold and auctioned merchandise at the 'Little Temple' where Bayous Rigolets and Perot met." Here, Davis references an article⁸ by Robert Vogel which I have not seen.

Similar to the confusion arising from both of the Laffite brothers being referred to in reports as "Laffite", some of the events located at "the Temple" were apparently at the Little Temple. In chapter six of Davis' book he says of Laffite's 1812 encounter with Lt. Andrew Holmes: "...they were still under sail approaching the northern end of the lake (Little Lake Barataria, now Little Lake), where they would pass a spot known locally as the Temple and enter Bayou Rigolett,...,on their way to Bayou Barataria and the rest of the way to the back door to New Orleans." From my quotation of Davis in the paragraph above, this appears to be the location of the Little Temple, quite a distance from the northwest shore of Lake Salvador, much closer to Bayou St. Denis (see Fig. 1), and on the main pathway from Barataria Pass and the Mississippi River above New Orleans.



Endnotes

1. Geringer, Joseph, "Jean Laffite: Gentleman Pirate of New Orleans"
http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/gangsters_outlaws/cops_others/lafitte/4.html
Accessed 2010 July.
2. Thompson, Ray M. The Land of Laffite the Pirate. New Orleans: Jefferson Parish Yearly Review, 1943
3. Keyes, Pam, "Spice Smuggling in Barataria", The Laffite Society Chronicles, Vol. 12, No. 1, (2006)
4. Keyes, Pam, "Proof of Laffite's battle service", The Laffite Study Group Newsletter, Vol. 3, No. 1, (1983): page 5.
5. Bienview, Lionel, "The Short Life of Dominique You, New Orleans' Most Popular Man", The Life and Times of Jean Laffite, Vol. 6, No. 2, (1982): 1-6.
6. Cable, George W., The Creoles of Louisiana, 1884; Pelican Publishing reprint 2005
7. Davis, Jack, The Pirates Laffite, Harcourt, 2005
8. Vogel, Robert C., "Jean Laffite, the Baratarians, and the Historical Geography of Piracy in the Gulf of Mexico," Gulf Coast Historical Review, Vol. 5 (Spring 1990): 64-65.
9. Swanson, Betsy, Historic Jefferson Parish, 1975; Gretna, La, Pelican Publishing reprint, 2004.
10. Landry, James P., "The Legacy of a Pirate", New Orleans Genesis, Vol. 37, No. 148 (Oct. 1998): 303-306. (A brother of the 1805 buyers of Boutte's Island is a direct ancestor of current Laffite Society secretary Carolyn Boutte Peterson.)
11. Arthur, Stanley Clisby, Old Families of Louisiana, 1931; Pelican Publishing reprint 1998, page 64.
12. Lemmon, Alfred, et. al, Editors, Charting Louisiana, Five Hundred Years of Maps, The Historic New Orleans Collection, 2003, p. 139.
13. "Little Temple Oil and Gas Field"
<http://louisiana.hometownlocator.com/maps/feature-map,ftc,2,fid,536616,n,little%20temple%20oil%20and%20gas%20field.cfm>
Accessed 2010 Nov. 17
- 14 "Louisiana Frontier Forts Prior to 1902"
http://www.accessgenealogy.com/forts/louisiana_frontier_forts_prior_1902.htm
Accessed 2010 Nov. 30
15. "Laffite, Barataria, Crown Point"
<http://www.alongthebayou.com/Forum/topic.php?id=42> Accessed 2010 Nov. 26

The Saga of James and Mary Campbell, Especially Mary

Jack Watson

This paper is part two of my own study of James and Mary Campbell. Part one concerned a successful attempt to visit and photograph the Campbell Family Cemetery at Campbell Bayou, near Swan Lake. I had noticed in the Laffite Chronicles from 1996 a field trip to the site was planned but later cancelled. I live within two miles of the site, and without permission, I ventured onto the location in search of the cemetery one day camera in hand. I got my pictures. Unfortunately, I learned later just how toxic this area is. It classifies as a Super Site Toxic Waste facility, governed by the E P A. An elderly family member keeps up the cemetery but the place is ruined forever for any type of habitation.

Part two is a much more detailed account of the lives of James Campbell and Mary Crow Sabinal. James and Mary met on the Red River in 1814. He was 28 and she was 14. Two years later they married at Crow's ferry on the Sabine River just north of present day Orange, Texas. Mary's stepfather, Isaac Crow owned the ferry. James had been involved in filibustering, smuggling, and privateering, and gave it up temporarily to try and settle down to a married life and cattle raising there on the Sabine. After a year, he convinced Mary that they needed to join Jean Laffite at his new base on present day Galveston Island. The place was called Campeche, and Laffite was building a privateering base to plunder Spanish shipping in the Gulf of Mexico. The next 46 months of James and Mary's lives were spent in Campeche and Bolivar, and were at a time and place of extraordinary happenings in Texas history. Between 1817 and 1820 the population of Laffite's camp increased from about 100 to over 1000 men, two wives, and a few mistresses. Mary's later descriptions of life there among people from all over the world led by a pirate who was a legend in his own time provided the majority of historical descriptions of the settlement that we read about today. 1820 was a pivotal year in the marriage of James and Mary. Laffite had agreed, at the request of the U S Navy, to abandon the island and burn Campeche. James was to sail before Laffite and meet him later near the Yucatan in Mexico. Mary remained in Bolivar at the fort of Las Caasas under the command of Dr James Long. Dr Long was a filibuster, intent on taking Texas from the Spanish. Mary's experience during the 10 month stay at Las Caasas is what makes this story very interesting. I'll get to that later.

From the experience at Galveston the Campbells moved back to the Sabine River and lived for a while at a place called Pine Bluff near Orange. In 1826 they moved to a settlement in the Atascosito district near present day Liberty, Texas. By 1829 they moved to a settlement at Double Bayou south of Anahuac. They were enumerated in the census of 1826 for the district and Mary listed her name as Mary Crow, wife of James Campbell. James and Mary were officially married in a baptism and wedding presided over by Padre Muldoon in Anahuac in 1832 for multiple couples. The purpose of these official events was to qualify these people for claims for land grants in the area from the Spanish authority. James and Mary applied for such a grant. In 1835 they moved to Galveston's Deer Island. I know Deer Island because I fish around it. It is an enhancing place and today is the most important birding areas in Galveston Bay. But I can't imagine anyone living on it. It is isolated, desolate, and without water. A hurricane in 1837 destroying most of their belongings convinced the pair to move to their final home on Virginia Point. They obtained 1500 acres on the Point, and over the rest of their lives, farmed, marketed, built a home, raised a family and started filling a family cemetery.

In reading and studying about the Campbells I used over 17 different books, letters, articles, and newspapers. A few of these sources need to be described at this point because they become part of the story. A primary source was an historical paper by W T Block, done in 1990, named "A Buccaneer Family in Spanish East Texas, A Biographical Sketch of Captain James and Mary Campbell". The paper is well researched and is very detailed. However, as we shall see, it is missing something. Another primary source is Mirabeau B Lamar, former President of The Republic of Texas, and a prolific writer.

Lamar interviews James Campbell in 1852 and it portrays many episodes in the life of Jean Laffite while on Galveston Island from the viewpoint of James Campbell 32 years later. In Lamar's papers, volume II, under the title "The Long Expedition 1821", is his narrative of the events at Fort Las Caasas at Bolivar during that important 10 month period of 1820 and 1821. It was important in the life of James and Mary Campbell, and it was also important in the fate of Dr Long and his quest to take Texas from the Spanish. Finally in primary sources is a series of personal letters between W T Block and Jean Epperson in 1991, right after Block wrote his famous biography of the Campbells.

Important secondary sources include the 1916 book Early History of Galveston, Volume I, by Joseph O.Dyer, a Galveston Daily News interview with Mary Campbell when she was 79 years old, and the pension file for James Campbell from the National Archives. A complete bibliography is included at the end of this paper.

James Campbell was born in Ireland in 1786 and died on Galveston Bay in 1856. He moved to the Americas at the age of four and his family settled in Baltimore, Maryland. As a young man James apprenticed in ship mast building and at the age of 26, joined the U S Navy in 1812. He was just in time for the War of 1812, and served in combat on Lake Erie under Commodore Perry. James was commended for his bravery, but after the war, he left the military and headed for the Gulf of Mexico. Once there, out of New Orleans, he began a maritime life of adventure, smuggling, privateering and filibustering. He joined Aury and Mina in their effort at taking Texas from the Spanish. He also must have come in contact with the Laffite brothers, Jean and Pierre.

While delivering and selling goods on the Red River in 1814, he met Mary Sabinal and went to her home in 1816 to marry her. In 1817 James and Mary joined Laffite in Campeche. This was an incredibly active three year period for James. For the first year Laffite kept him on shore with numerous jobs including maintaining a storage depot at Bolivar Peninsula and building barracks to house enslaved peoples until they could be sold to Louisiana plantation owners. These barracks were near present day Deweyville, Texas, close to the Sabine River for easy transport. After proving himself for a year, James was assigned a vessel, the Hotspur, and commenced to plunder Spanish commerce on the high seas. He quickly became the most productive of all of Laffite's men. On his first sortie he returned with over \$100,000 in cash and a like amount of goods aboard another vessel in tow. He was sent by Laffite to New Orleans on business, and later to Baltimore to purchase ships. He was used by Laffite to spy on Captain John Marott and expose him for his attempted theft. In Lamar's interview in 1852, James goes into more detail about that three year period including Laffite's subsequent dual with Marott. According to James Campbell it was he who went to the USS Enterprise holding off the Port of Campeche and met Captain Kearny of the U S Navy. Campbell reportedly dined with Kearny before returning with the navy captain to meet Jean Laffite on the island. James describes an interesting 1832 meeting with an old comrade in arms and fellow privateer under Laffite, Captain Cochrum of the Mexican Navy. Cochrum had sailed with Laffite in 1820 and was with him when he was fatally wounded in battle in 1823. He confirmed to James Campbell, the fate of Jean Laffite. James also talks with Lamar about the mutiny that occurred concerning Gustav Duval as James returned to Campeche late in 1820 or early 1821. There appears to be several versions of this event. It is important to remember that James left Campeche four days before Laffite did in May of 1820. His plan was to meet with Laffite at the Yucatan later. That meeting, of course, never happened. James sailed to Cuba, the Yucatan, and on to Vera Cruse where he picked up Duval before returning to Galveston Bay.

One thing about James Campbell was that he did it all. I mentioned in part one that his life could have been a Hollywood movie starring John Wayne. Think about it. An immigrant from Ireland as a child later becomes a war hero in the War of 1812. He goes to the Louisiana Gulf coast seeking adventure on the high seas. He pairs up with the most famous pirate of them all, Jean Laffite and becomes an important part of that period in Texas history. Then he gets to settle down, stays married to the same woman for 40 yrs, raises a family and becomes productive citizen and Texas patriot. The most ironic part of this life of his was the circumstances of his death. At the age of 70, in 1856, he sailed a boat solo from Virginia Point

to Galveston, something he had probably done many times before. He was caught in a squall, went missing for 3 days and was found drowned in the bay. In my mind only John Wayne could have played that part.

Mary Campbell was born in 1800, on the Sabine River. She died at her homestead near Virginia Point in Galveston County Texas in 1884. She had a number of names. Her maiden name was Sabinal. Her father was Cabineaux, and he owned a ferry on the Sabine north of present day Orange, Texas. A horse on the ferry kicked Cabineaux and he died from the injury. Isaac Crow married his widow and I suppose the ferry came with her. Finally she married James in 1816 and tacked Campbell on to the list. She listed her name in the 1826 Atascosito census as "Mary Crow, wife of James Campbell". I would call her Mary Sabinal Cabineaux Crow Campbell. An interview with Mary done by the Galveston Daily News in 1879 provides us with one of the very few eyewitness accounts of what Jean Laffite's Campeche looked like. She described a sort of shanty town with 100 huts that extended west to about where 13th street in Galveston is today. She said the population of the settlement went from about 200 to over 1000 between 1817 and 1820, consisting of men from everywhere in the world, two wives, and several mistresses. Mary testified that everyone got along very well. She said some of the huts had glass window but most had sails for windows. According to Mary she saw Laffite almost daily and always referred to him as the "old man". He was 36 but she was 18. This must have been an incredible and unforgettable event in the life of this 18 year old illiterate girl. Her husband was a top producer for Laffite and I feel sure she had more luxury in life with the stolen goods available than she ever did before or after that short period. Another glimpse into Mary's character is a 1964 interview from the Galveston Daily News with Mable Dick, granddaughter of Mary. Some very colorful stories are spun here about Mary's marriage and subsequent life. What we have here however is a newspaperman interviewing an 80 year old lady about events first relayed to her by her 80 year old grandmother who was described as senile. W T Block says that the interview "stinks to high heaven". When Campeche was burned by Laffite in May, 1820, it appears Mary took refuge at Bolivar Peninsula. She was housed at a Fort built and run by filibusters under Dr James Long. The fort was named Las Cassas. James Campbell had left for a last sortie four days before Laffite with plans to meet him later, and I feel sure, to eventually return to Bolivar and pick up Mary.

1820 was a significant year for Mary. To understand how significant, another story needs to be told and characters introduced. Please bear with me. It will come together in the end. James Long was from Natchez. He was a physician and surgeon, a successful merchant, a war veteran of the battle of New Orleans, an adventurer and filibuster. He was married to Jane Long, daughter of the famous and controversial American soldier and statesman James Wilkinson. He and his followers declared Texas independent and free from Spanish rule, and were promptly beaten and chased back into Louisiana by the Spanish. By 1819 he and the last of his band of followers established the last hold out at Bolivar Peninsular, still hoping to mount a military victory over the Spanish and take Texas. He was backed financially by his own money but also by his father in law Wilkinson. By 1819 his financial backing came from Elensar Ripley of New Orleans, a resigned American general, also interested in the taking of Texas. Ripley introduced into the plot Don Jose Felix Trespalacios, a Mexican revolutionary and native that was very popular at home and dedicated to taking Texas. Ripley felt the combination of Long and Trespalacios would be the key to victory. Trespalacios brought with him a nephew, one Don Santiago Modella. Other important participants were Benjamin Milam, John Austin, and Warren D C Hall. Dr Long and his men were at Fort Las Cassas from mid 1819 to September 1821. During this time there were many trips back and forth between Bolivar and New Orleans. For much of their stay in Texas, Jean Laffite and his famous Campeche were right across the Bolivar roads. In fact Long came to the island to convince Laffite to join him in his military adventure. Laffite had too much on his plate for nation building. Besides, he was employed at the time as a spy for Spain to keep an eye on Dr Long and his men. By early 1820 Laffite was committed to leave Texas and burn Campeche. After that he couldn't care less about Long's dream. During late 1819 and early 1820 Long and Warren Hall lobbied Laffite extensively

requesting him to leave them supplies and ammunition. Numerous references indicate they were somewhat successful, particularly in obtaining lumber and buildings they moved to Las Casas from the island. Laffite didn't give them any arms however. Laffite reportedly left them lumber to build a suitable house for Jane Long. Could he also have arranged from them to build a house for Mary Campbell?

It makes sense that this is the case. Mirabeau Lamar writes that Mary Crow had a house within Fort Las Casas. Mary was one of two wives in Campeche and she was the wife of his most trusted lieutenant, James Campbell. Laffite and James Campbell weren't going to burn down the settlement and leave Mary to the elements and Indians. They had leverage over Long and Hall who were actively soliciting supplies. I feel that they got Hall to agree to take Mary in. There is evidence that Hall and Campbell established a life long mutual respect here. James and Mary's first son was named Warren Campbell after Warren D C Hall. Besides, Long was gone to New Orleans in frequent visits and didn't return to Bolivar until June, so Mary would have moved in while he was gone. At any rate, by May, 1820, James Campbell and Jean Laffite were gone and Mary was a refugee in Fort Las Casas awaiting James's return. According to Lamar, Mary was a big controversy at the Fort. The next 10 months there were very interesting indeed.

Long returned to Bolivar in June only to meet Hall headed the other way at High Island. Hall was to go to New Orleans, then Alexander, and return with Jane Long and Colonel Modella. Long returned to a near mutinous Las Casas and had his hands full just keeping his men together. He also had Mary Crow to put up with. For the next four months I feel James Long and Mary Crow developed a very mutual disrespect. In November 1820, Hall returned with Mrs Long and Modella. Dr Long and Modella clashed from the start.

The prose of Mirabeau B Lamar is distinct, and no one can say it like him. Let me quote him in his description of the happenings there at Fort Las Casas. As to why Long and Modella didn't get along he says "there was a woman connected to the affair so it supersedes the necessity of seeking any further cause". If Lamar didn't have much respect for women, he didn't have any respect for Mary Crow. About her he says "she was not equal to the upper 10,000, but almost equal to the upper 10,000 in many respects, especially in the liberal use of her tongue". He goes on "no orator could excel her in fluency and certainly no one ever surpassed her in the provoking character of her rhetoric". According to Lamar "her freedom of speech as well as her manners became finally a source of great annoyance to the ladies in the Fort, and a general disturbance in the whole garrison. Her expulsion became inevitable". This 20-year-old spark plug from East Texas just didn't fit in here. About Modella, Lamar describes him as "weak, vain, and impulsive. He had some ambition, strong resentments, and not a particle of principal or prudence". Modella and Mary became friends. Lamar says he had "amicable social relations with the obstreperous fair one"(Mary), and "he patronized her in her evil disposition toward others". Modella's insubordination would have challenged any military commander. He was finally arrested by Long and accused among other things of the following:

"Accused Dr Long of dishonest acts. Wrote threatening letters to everyone at the Fort.

Refused to do duty. Withheld rations to the troops.

Declared the garrison be put to the sword."

Besides Mary, Modella had an ally in a fellow Mexican Antonio Coelho. He did his best to calm the waters between Modella and Long and succeeded in having him released. Modella would not be deterred however and attempted to put forth a forged letter from Trespalacios giving him command of the Fort. Long had him confined to his quarters. About the same time Modella and Mary proceeded to verbally attack the wife of a Captain Taylor resulting in Long ordering Milam and Austin to move Mary's house out of the fort. Modella then wanted to join Mary there but was refused permission. He went anyway. According to Lamar "he went to Mary's house and it cost him his life". Long sent guards to bring him back. On the way back to the fort, he was met by Long. Modella challenged Long and came at him with a knife. Modella was shot by Long's guards and died later. Modella was a popular figure among

Mexican patriots. His reported "execution" at Las Casas for insubordination was not accepted well. It had to affect the relationship between Long and Trespalacios as well as Long's reputation in Texas among the native Mexicans fighting for their independence. For Dr Long the killing might very well have determined his fate. In September, 1821, Long invaded Texas and captured Goliad. He was subsequently captured and marched to Mexico City. By this time the Mexicans had won their independence from Spain. Eventually, he was recognized by the new government as a fellow patriot fighting for the same cause and treaded with respect by authorities in Mexico. Unfortunately, he was killed there under mysterious circumstances and according to most sources, at the orders of Felix Trespalacios in retaliation for the murder of Modella.

Before Long left Bolivar, in February or March 1821, James Campbell returned to the island of Galveston under the alias of Capt. Carrol. There he experience the Duval mutiny, was chased off by Long's men to Louisiana, and lost his prize and ship. A short time later, he returned to Bolivar by land, was treated "coolly by Long", and took Mary up the Sabine to raise a family.

Poor Mary! It wasn't her fault she was involved in an international incident. Lamar blasted her and continuously referred to Long as "our hero". Here was this 20 year old woman who had spent the past 36 months among a band of pirates and outlaws where she was the Campeche Queen, suddenly thrust into a military community with strict rules and regulations. The people she dealt with where more than likely educated and considered themselves a class above this East Texas brat pirate wife with significant "rhetoric". Dr Long had an interesting set of rules for the fort, no corporal punishment and no foul language. According to Lamar anyway, Mary was a chronic violator of the second rule. Perhaps the only way she knew how to deal with the ostracism she might have encountered was to give them a good cursing out. I feel that the reason she went to Las Casas was to wait out James' return, and she did. The only other indication as to the true nature of Mary Crow's character was the Galveston Daily News interview in 1879. In describing Mary the writer had said that she had "grown up to womanhood amid scenes little calculated to develop anything like manners, and whose graces of mind and person where the offspring of nature alone". Of course his source, other than the 79 year little old lady he was interviewing, could have been Mirabeau Lamar.

I was privileged to have access to a series of personal letters between W T Block and Jean Epperson from 1991, right after Block wrote his famous comprehensive biography of James and Mary Campbell. In a letter from Jean praising Block's work, she referred to the "other Mary" and said she loved the description of Mary in Lamar's letters. Block wrote back shocked. He said he missed it. He told Jean "it's hard to believe this Mary Crow was our Mary Campbell, but there is no doubt". Block went on to suggest that there was possibly a romantic relationship between Long and Mary. I don't believe it for a second. Dr Long prided himself for his morality and when he and Mary where at the fort Long was awaiting the arrival of his wife Jane. There would be no way to hide an affair between the two among such a small group of people. Instead I feel Long and Mary clashed from the beginning.

After I finished part one on the Campbells I asked Jean Epperson for a new subject to research. She told me I hadn't finished the last one. She said I needed to tell the story of the "other Mary". And a very interesting story it is. There is room for more research on the story. I'm sure there are other accounts of what happen at Fort Las Casas in 1820. All we need to do is find them.

Works Cited

Book

- Brown, John H. History of Texas 1685-1892. vol I. St. Louis: L E Daniell. 1892.
Cartwright, Gary. Galveston, A History of the Island. New York: Macmillan. 1991.
Davis, William C. The Pirates Laffite. New York: Harcourt. 2006.
Dyer, Dr. J O. The Early History of Galveston. Part I. Galveston: Oscar Springer Print. 1916.
Foote, Stuart Henry. Texas and Texans. Philadelphia: Cowperthwait. 1841.
McComb, David G. Galveston A History. Austin: University of Texas. 1986.

Ramsay, Jack C. Jr. Jean Laffite Prince of Pirates. Austin: Eakin Press. 1996.

Articles and Papers

Block, W T. "A Buccaneer Family in Spanish East Texas: A Biographical Sketch of Captain James and Mary Campbell". Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record, XXVII, No. 1, 1991.

Lamar, Mirabeau Bonaparte. "Information Derived from James Campbell, now Residing on Galveston Bay", June 10, 1855. The Papers of Mirabeau Bonaparte Lamar. New York: AMA Press. 1973.

Lamar, Mirabeau Bonaparte. "The Long Expedition 1821". The Papers of Mirabeau Bonaparte Lamar. Vol 2, page 99. New York: AMA Press. 1973.

Newspapers

Buccaneers- The Memoirs of Mary Campbell". Galveston Daily News. May 25, 1879.

"In-laws' History Provides Student with Pirate Story". Galveston Daily News. June 18, 1964.

"Laffite and His Lieutenants". Galveston Daily News. April 26, 1878.

"Obituary of James Campbell". Galveston Weekly News. May 27, 1856.

"Obituary of Mary Campbell". Galveston Daily News. January 7, 1884.

"Pirate Becomes Respectable Citizen". True West. November/December, 1969.

Private Correspondence

A series of letters between Jean Epperson and W T Block. January, 1991

Theodosia and Her Locket

Tom Linton

If I were a cat I would probably have been killed by now --- cause I have a very keen curiosity.

Something I came across regarding the burial site of The "Mother of Texas" Jane Long, set it off.

There was this Karankawa Indian down near the mouth of San Bernard River who turned up with a gold locket.

Not that Karankawa Indians were rarities around the mouth of the San Bernard River in the eighteen twenties --- perhaps even with gold lockets. However, this locket was unique to say the least.

This gold locket belonged to Theodosia Burr Alston, daughter of Aaron Burr, wife of the Governor of South Carolina and passenger on a boat that departed Georgetown South Carolina on 31 December 1812. This boat, the Patriot, with all its crew and passengers disappeared without a trace.

Where did they go and how did that locket get to Texas? This really got me going like a bloodhound.

Thus far I have found evidence of Ju-Ju black magic in the Carolina low country, piracy on the high seas (with a couple of folks being hanged for said same), Key West wreckers and refuge with Lafitte on Galveston sought.

HOW IT ALL STARTED:

On the 20th of December 1812 there was a meeting held in a tavern near the docks in Georgetown South Carolina. The decisions made by the three men who met there set in motion one of the great sea mysteries of all times --- the disappearance of the pilot boat Patriot and all onboard. Many ships can be included as having had a similar fate but none had so famous a passenger as did the Patriot --- Theodosia Burr Alston. She, the only child of the infamous Aaron Burr and wife of the Governor of South Carolina, Joseph Alston, along with the boat and all on board vanished without a trace but a few tantalizing clues as to its fate.

The meeting in Georgetown was between a local blockade-runner known only as Cap'n Le Blanc and two deck hands from the Patriot. They met to plan piracy on the high seas. The plan intended only to gain them the cargo of the Patriot that was thought to be so carefully concealed.

Le Blanc operated out of Charleston and Georgetown South Carolina as a blockade-runner during the War of 1812. He was said to have been involved with Jean and Pierre Lafitte in their early days in the Caribbean. He had been in and out of Charleston and Georgetown for several years. No one trusted him but sought him out when there were shady deals to be done. That is what caused Jean Desfarges and Robert Johnson to arrange to meet with him on that December night.

Desfarge and Johnson had been hired to help in the refitting of the Patriot to make her ready to sail for New York and with the understanding they would be taken on as crew for the trip. In the course of their work it appeared to them that steps had been taken to hid some of the Patriots cargo, this caused them to seek out Cap'n Le Blanc.

When the Patriot put into Georgetown for repairs she had a 50-man crew ---- a huge crew for a vessel of its size--- presumably musketeers and surplus crews to man ships taken as prizes in its privateering undertaking. The Patriot had returned after 56 days at sea during which time she was reported to have "--- burnt, sank and destroyed 9 vessels (History of the American Privateers & Letters-of- Marque During Our War with England in the Years 1812, '3, and '4, George Coggeshall, 1865). With this much time at sea and with this many ships subdued it is highly likely that the plunder from these encounters did in fact reside in the recesses of the double-hulled area amidships of the Patriot.

The recording of the materials taken by licensed privateers was recorded at the War Office in New York. Desfarge and Johnson would have known of this requirement. This coupled with the fact that the Patriot had not been to New York since it conducted its 56 days of privateering caused them to decide that a meeting with Cap'n LeBlanc could be to their advantage.

The removal and storage of the Patriot's two cannons below decks was explained to them as an attempt to show the English ships blockading the East coast ports at the time, that the Patriot was a vessel merely seeking innocent passage.

The same reason given for painting over the name of the Patriot also could be accepted as a subterfuge for the purpose of passage through the blockade.

However, the double walls of the hull amidships of the vessel were not mentioned nor explained by either the Captain of the Patriot, William Overstocks nor the Sailing-Master Samuel Coon.

On 22 December 1812, Mr. Timothy Green wrote to Aaron Burr from Georgetown, S.C. Green's letter was to inform Burr that he had engaged a passage to New York for his daughter in a pilot-boat --- the Patriot. He stated that he was able to make this very fortuitous arrangement because the vessel, which had been out privateering, had come in to Georgetown for refitting before departing for New York --- and that they would sail in about eight days.

Timothy Green was a friend of Burr's who Burr had persuaded to go and accompany Theodosia on the voyage to New York. He was asked to perform this service for his friend Burr because as he stated in his letter to Burr on 7 Dec 1812 that Theodosia's husband, Governor Joseph Alston "--- seemed rather hurt that you should conceive it necessary to send a person here, as he or one of his brothers would attend Mrs. Alston to New York. I told him that you had some opinion of my medical talents; that you had learned your daughter was in a low state of health, and required unusual attention and medical attention, on her voyage ---."

Governor Alston and Theodosia sailed down the Waccamaw River from their home, above the confluence of the Greater Pee Dee and Waccamaw rivers, Oak Plantation.

He saw to her boarding the Patriot and watched, as he described in a letter to Aaron Burr, "--- as the vessel rounded the point of North Island."

Thus began the journey of Theodosia and her locket.

SOURCE MATERIALS

I have drawn on several well researched and documented sources in my attempt to develop a, hopefully, plausible theory of how the locket got to Texas.

- 1). "Theodosia Burr Alston; Portrait of a Prodigy" Richard N. Cote, Corinthian Books, Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
- 2). "Ladies of Liberty: The Woman Who Shaped Our Nation." Cokie Roberts, Harpercollins, Publishers.
- 3). "Graveyard of the Atlantic: Shipwrecks of the North Carolina Coast." David Stick.
- 4). "A History Of American Privateers And Letters Of Marque Interspersed With Several Naval Battles Between American And British Ships Of War" Captain George Coggeshall **Kessinger Publishing's Photocopy Edition.**
- 5). "Theodosia the First Gentlewoman of her Time" Charles Felton Pidgin.
- 6). "A History of the Oaks plantation." James L. Michie.
- 7). Personal communication, Henry H. Anderson, Jr. 186 Jerry Browne Rd., Mystic, CT.

And where I could not find documentation I tried to use the famous axiom of Sherlock Holmes, "When you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains--however improbable--must be the truth." --Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. In other words I have tried to create a set of events that may have been "probable" given the document facts surrounding the time and place.

Laffite Society studies famous, mysterious island swashbuckler

Reprinted by permission of the Galveston County Daily News

By **BARBARA CANETTI**
Correspondent

Notorious pirate Jean Laffite, who lived some of his 34 years on Galveston Island, died about 1823, but the neighbors are still talking about him.

The mystique that surrounded the man and the myths continue and has been embraced. Laffite (sometimes spelled Lafitte or Laffitte) and the idea of swashbuckling pirates are found across the island: shops, restaurants, a hotel and a subdivision are all named for the genre of pirates or Laffite. There's even a group of serious Laffite aficionados in Galveston who meet, eat, drink, discuss and travel — all with the Laffites in mind.

Jean Laffite and his older brother Pierre lived in Galveston from around 1817 until 1821, where they commanded a band of buccaneers.

Their fort, called Campeche, was furnished with booty stolen from captured ships. Legend has it that they were smugglers and thieves, and were ordered off the island by the U.S. government — even though Galveston and Texas were not yet part of the union.

'Burned everything'

Laffite Society president Ed Jamison said the group, which has been meeting since 1994, is both a social and an academic organization. Members have traveled to other cities such as New Orleans and the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico to see Laffite-related museums, monuments and artifacts.

"The truth is, Jean Laffite didn't leave much on Galveston. We know he was here, but when he left, he burned everything, so there are no traces," Jamison said.

But before that, Laffite settled in with his buccaneers and built his home, Maison Rouge, on a small piece of land on what is now Harborside Drive at 14th Street.

According to a historical marker on the site, Laffite is said to have burned the village and then fled, sailing to the Yucatan.

Another building was erected on the site in 1870, over the cellars of Maison Rouge; remains of that structure can still be seen. The property today is owned by Dale Olson, one of the Laffite Society's founders.

Jamison said the group has a long-range plan of creating an annual Galveston festival based on the pirate theme and the Laffites.

'Certain mystique'

"It would be a fun opportunity for locals as well as visitors. The theme of pirates is entertaining and would be a good merchandising opportunity for businesses and for Galveston Island," Jamison said. "There is a certain mystique that goes with pirates and people seem to like that."

In addition, the group would like to travel to other destinations where there is historical evidence of Laffite sightings.

The Laffites have given local writers and musicians fodder for plays, movies, musicals and scores of books about the shenanigans of the two brothers. Island resident Jim Nonus, who has been sighted more than once in knee-high black boots and other pirate regalia, and who has written several short plays, performed for society members during their annual gala.

The plays are based on factual information, but are Nonus' creations.

Search for answers

Most historians note that brother Pierre was probably the more interesting of the two, but it is the renegade Jean who has captured the imagination of the Lafitte Society. The group meets at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at The Meridian, 2228 Seawall Blvd.

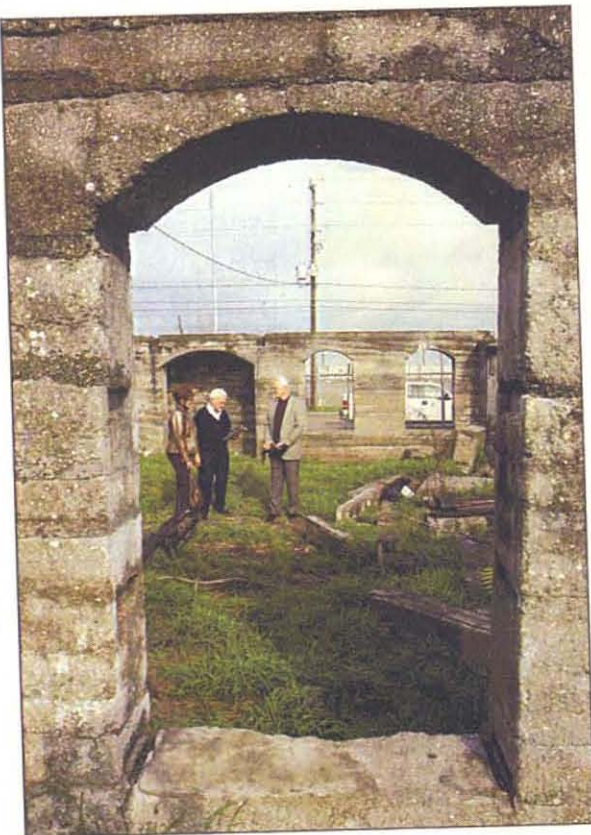
New members are encouraged to join.

Interestingly, the Laffites are thanked by the Society "for providing just enough facts to make it interesting and more than enough secrets to make it challenging."

The search for answers continues.

Credit for the pictures on the next page goes to Jennifer Reynolds of the Galveston County Daily News.

The Society wishes to thank Laura Elder, editor of the COAST, a Galveston County Daily News publication, for giving it permission to reprint this article from the February 2011 edition with original title *Pirate captures imagination*.



Dale Olson, left, one of the founders of the Laffite Society, and Ed Jameson, president of the group, stand at the historical marker on Harborside Drive where it is believed Jean Laffite built his home, Maison Rouge. According to legend, Laffite burned the village before moving to the Yucatan in Mexico.