



The Laffite Society Chronicles

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Editor's Page

Dan Cote

Don Marler has placed the reins of The Chronicles in my hands. What a marvelous heritage he has left for me – for us – to continue. Bear with me as I trundle through presenting the thoughts, ideas and articles dealing with the times of that personable pirate family, the Laffites. Your ideas on how we do this are always welcome. The hairs on the back of my neck may bristle at harsh critiques but they settle down and the critiques are studied. So, please, help me make these Chronicles continue in the Marler style.

Rubio Mañé's *The Pirates Laffite* And Jeff Modzelewski's Translation Of Same

Presented at The Laffite Society - Monthly Meeting Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Jean and Pierre Laffite were legends in their time, and much was written about them during, and has been ever since, that time. A good portion of the Laffites' lives was spent in the United States, and therefore, understandably, much of what has been chronicled of them is in English. Additionally, if one's sole language is English, references to non-English Laffite-related text, such as occur in footnotes and bibliographies, may not "sink in," contributing to a false impression of an even greater preponderance of English-language material.

But much of the Laffites' lives and activities transpired in non-U.S. and non-English-speaking territory, and, naturally, records and literature about the Laffites have been written in the languages of those regions.

For example, most researchers believe the Laffites were born either in France or in present-day Haiti, the latter a French colony until 1804, when Jean was about 23 and Pierre some years older. We may therefore assume that some documentary evidence in French of the Laffite family exists or existed in an archive of France or the French Caribbean – for example, birth, baptismal, notarial, etc., records.

The Laffites were also active in Spanish-speaking regions. For example, they acted as spies for Spain near the end of Mexico's fight for independence, and Jean was jailed in Cuba for a short time in 1822. Documentary evidence in Spanish of these events likely exists or existed in a Spanish or Spanish colonial

archive, such as the noted Archive of the Indies in Seville.

As a third and final example of Laffite activity resulting in Spanish-language records, and the one most germane to tonight's talk, the Laffites plied the waters around the Yucatán Peninsula after departing Galveston in 1820. Of this activity we do not have to surmise, but instead know for certain, that there exists documentary evidence, and we know this because of the efforts of a man named Jorge Ignacio Rubio Mañé.

Rubio Mañé was born in Mérida, the capital of the Mexican State of Yucatán, in 1904. He enjoyed a multicultural education; he was a historian, an academic, and a prolific writer. Rubio Mañé died in 1988, just eight days short of his 84th birthday. He entered the annals of Laffite research because he discovered a piece of historical data about them that refuted the long-time erroneous belief that Jean Laffite had perished off the coast of the Yucatán in late 1821.

In 1935, while researching a non-Laffite-related topic in the Archive of Notaries Public in his native city of Mérida, Rubio Mañé came upon a file labeled "Year of 1821. Investigative Proceedings against the Englishman D. George Schumph." This file contained the transcript of a judicial inquiry regarding a Canadian from Quebec named George Schumph, of 26 or 27 years of age. In November, 1821, Schumph had docked at the northern Yucatán port of Dzilam de Bravo and

made his way to Mérida. If not sufficiently noteworthy that a young man from Quebec should arrive at this destination in the first quarter of the 19th century, something else on board would make it so – a dying man with the renowned surname of “Laffite.”

Schumph was detained on suspicion of complicity with pirates, and specifically, of complicity in a gun battle between these pirates and civil authorities off the coast near Cancún. Schumph disclaimed such involvement, but in the course of his testimony he reveals that Pierre Laffite, the older brother of the more famous Jean Laffite, was wounded in that skirmish, was brought ashore, died, and received a proper Christian burial in the Yucatán town of Dzilam on November 10, 1821.

This single item discovered in the judicial proceeding – that it was Pierre, rather than Jean, who perished in the Yucatán in late 1821 – is of importance to Laffite scholars. Up to this time, it was believed that it was Jean who had perished in this manner and at this place and date. Erroneous citations had been perpetuated over the decades, as new references cited faulty older ones which could no longer be corroborated. Rubio Mañé's discovery, to be sure, did not determine where and when Jean did in fact die, but it did oblige Laffite students to return to the research trail with respect to this question.

Rubio Mañé's interest in Laffite was piqued by the discovery of the Schumph proceeding, which he used as the germ about which to craft a full-length book, published in Spanish in 1938 and titled *The Pirates Laffite*. He relied on a variety of sources, a major one of which was Lyle Saxon's *Laffite The Pirate*, published eight years earlier in 1930 and familiar to English speakers. But Rubio Mañé also used other sources largely

unfamiliar to English-only-speaking readers, such as Mexico's General and Public Archive of the Nation, issues of *The Gazette of the Government of Mexico*, a collection of documents on the history of Mexico's War of Independence, and a history of the Yucatán during the Spanish domination.

Although not accessible to non-readers of Spanish, Rubio Mañé's *The Pirates Laffite* was not unknown to serious students of Laffite. Indeed, Robert Vogel, a pre-eminent living Laffite historian and a member of the Laffite Society, includes it in his short list of most important Laffite-related works. Dale Olson owned a copy, and in mid-2004, a few days before he traveled to Manchester, England, to speak at an International Trumpet Guild conference, he offered it to me with the suggestion that the translation of selected extracts from it might prove interesting to the Laffite Society, either as a presentation at a monthly meeting, as an essay published in our semiannual *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, or both.

During the time that Dale was abroad, I looked through the book, considered its overall appeal, noted that despite its many chapters it was not an overly verbose work, and, presuming that an English translation did not yet exist but would be worthwhile, decided to translate it in its entirety. I wrote the most recent edition's publisher in Mexico and obtained permission to do so.

Rubio Mañé's *The Pirates Laffite*, despite the specificity of its title, deals with much more than just the privateer brothers. For example, it discusses Mexico's battle for independence against Spain in more detail than that to which most Anglo-Americans are exposed unless they purposely study it. Included in Rubio Mañé's treatment of this topic

are the efforts of the filibusters - those who, without any birth connection to either a colony or its colonizer, voluntarily take part in the former's uprising against the latter. We marvel at young men like Ellis Bean, some twelve years older than George Schumph, a Tennessean by birth, who not only joins the insurgent effort in Mexico, but then travels back and forth between there and the United States attempting to raise money to fund the campaign.

The discovery of the Schumph document also allowed the possibility that the so-called *Journal of Jean Laffite* is factual, if not to thrive, then at least to cling to life support. The *Journal*, as many of us already know, is a subject which merits research and unending discussion in its own right. It alleges that Jean Laffite eventually abandoned the sea, moved to the central United States, and died a sort of gentleman farmer in 1854 in Alton, Illinois, today a city of 30,000 on the Mississippi River about 20 miles north of St. Louis, Missouri. Jean's traditional accepted date of death of 1821 in the Yucatán was always one "proof" that the *Journal* was spurious; the Schumph deposition refuted this.

The Schumph deposition in itself is a fascinating, yet problematic, object of study, for despite clear language identifying Pierre Lafitte as the decedent, other portions of the transcribed testimony to which we have access are difficult to understand or ambiguous. As I discuss in some detail in my inserted footnote (a) to Chapter I of the translation, the deposition scenario

was cumbersome from the outset. An English-speaking prisoner had to be examined in Spanish-speaking New Spain. A translator is found who, we are told, knew English because he was born in New Orleans - but into a Spanish-speaking family, and in a polyglot epoch of New Orleans in which one could perhaps exist without knowing English well if he or she knew French or Spanish. Doubtless, the long, run-on sentences and "legalese" of the period add to the confusion of the transcription of the testimony.

As a student of Romance languages, I must say that I undertook the translation as much or more for the linguistic than for the historical appeal. It is a challenge to translate well, for good translations are not literal translations. The better the vocabulary and style of the author, the greater the need for the good translator to possess something of these qualities as well. Rubio Mañé was an educated man and a polished writer, and that set the bar higher than if one were translating, say, a journalist in whose writing fact and economy of verbiage were the most important elements and style less so. It was important to me to do justice to Rubio Mañé's writing ability, not just to his research, yet in the end there were still a number of passages with which I was not wholly satisfied - which still seemed to me to be awkward, although I had reviewed them over and over to try to find a better way to phrase them. But, eventually, one has to "let go" and say that one is done.

1816 MAPS of GALVESTON BAY

Jean L. Epperson

The Rosenberg Library in Galveston has two unsigned maps, in Spanish, apparently drawn in the year 1816. The first is listed as a photostatic copy of a map in the National Archives in Mexico City. It was donated to the Rosenberg by Regan Brown. The second map is a photostatic copy of a manuscript map copied from an uncited volume in Bogata, Columbia. It was donated to the Rosenberg in 1954 by Carlos Fallon.'

The first map was the subject of much interest and work in 1995 by three members of the Laffite Society, Tom Oertling, Dorothy Karilanic and Jeff Modzelewski. The map in the Rosenberg is very dim and hard to read and the first order of inquiry was to translate the Spanish. Dorothy and Jeff worked diligently, with much eye strain, on the translation. Then Tom crafted an article entitled , Historical Comments and Observations on the Map "Bahia de Galveston" . The article and translation was published in the January 1996 edition of the Laffite Society Chronicles. Tom's astute conclusion was that the 1810 date on the map was wrong and that the last digit on the date was actually a "6" and not a zero. The upper part of the six had been obliterated. He also related that General Humbert , whose camp was depicted on Bolivar, did not arrive there until 1815. It is likely that this map was drawn by some one in the company of Colonel Henry Perry and General Jean Joseph Humbert whose group arrived on Bolivar in 1815. The group meeting with misfortune and being unable to be re-supplied joined

Commodore Louis Aury, who arrived on Galveston Island in July 1816. {author's note: Mina arrived Nov 1816 -Jean Laffite arrived March 23, 1817 *LHQ 21/20]

The intriguing thing about this map is the three casas (houses) shown where Aury's fort is depicted on the second map. This location was supposedly the highest point on the east end of the Island and the ultimate location of Jean Laffite's fort and house.

A surprising find, to the author, was a second clear copy in English of this map in the Rosenberg . The translations were not exactly the same as Jeff and Dorothy published in the Laffite Chronicles. but very similar. Did Jeff and Dorothy donate a revised copy of the translations to the Rosenberg?

The second 1816 map in the Rosenberg is primarily of the entrance to Galveston Bay and is entitled "Entrada de la Bahia de Galveston, 1816. This map was reproduced in an article entitled, "The Three Pirates Lafon" published in The Laffite Society Chronicles in February 2005. Printed on Point Bolivar is the camp of Colonel Perry, and on the east end of Galveston Island (Isla Serpiente) is a fort. This map is extremely well done and it is speculated that it was crafted by Bartholome Lafon a well known engineer and cartographer of the time. Lafon was known to have sent a map to Governor Antonio Martinez in 1817. The title of the map was not specified but it was more than likely the entrance to Galveston Bay. It has been informative and a pleasure to have reviewed these maps and the participation of the members of the Laffite Society in studying and translating the maps.

THE FIRST TWO WERE FROM THE BUILDING ISLANDS. VOR 5548

Plains of the Caramanches

**Mouth of the
Trinity River**
I was on the east side of the
river and the great site
of the Comanche Fort or Agency
is shown.

It is very easy to get the sequence to Mount Point following the guide.

the new road is 20 miles from
the mouth of T. Jacquette

S. Jacyntho Bay

Good too! I'd about 300
total. excellent position
for a tank and I'd.

Saryothu Point

Now that everything has been pointed to point and has
three pages, the rest is very much of the same.

Clay Pileon *...and many others*
-and-
Nuddy

Monday 20/

GALVESTON. BAY

PORT OF GALVESTON

Alternative Fund

Summary

7

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Henry G. Taliaferro. *Cartographic Sources in the Rosenberg Library*. (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1988), 100 & 101.
- ² Harris Gaylord Warren. *The Alvarado as Their Transport*, (Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press, 1943) 122, 123 - 130. 131; Harriet Smither, editor, *The Papers of Mirabeau Bonaparte Lamar* (Austin, Von Boeckmann-Jones Co., 1914), VI. 443-444.
- ³ Virginia H. Taylor, *The Letters of Antonio Martinez 1817-1822* (Austin: Texas State Library, 1957), 34.
- ⁴ Louisiana Historical Quarterly

Capt. John Shaw – A Biography

Edited by Pam Keyes

The following is an original biographical article written in 1823 about Capt. John Shaw, who was in charge of the New Orleans Naval Station from late 1810-1813. Some minor editing has been made to improve sentence structure, and where warranted, some editorial notes inserted. Pam Keyes, editor

First published in the National Gazette of Washington, D.C., and reprinted in the Oct. 18, 1823, issue of the Carolina Gazette

Biography of Capt. John Shaw
Late of the Navy of the United States

Born in Ireland in 1773, of respectable parents, Captain John Shaw was educated at a country school in the neighborhood of Ballafin. At the age of seventeen years he emigrated to the United States, with an elder brother, and arrived at New York, December 31, 1790. After passing a short time in that city, he came to Philadelphia, where he remained until March, 1791, when he embarked for the East Indies, to which he made four voyages between 1791-97. In the last of these voyages, he was named first officer of the ship in which he sailed. He found time, in the same interval, to make himself master of the duties of a clerk in a merchant's counting house, and to march as a volunteer with "Macpherson's Blues," on the expedition against the Insurgents in the western part of Pennsylvania (Ed. note, "Whiskey Rebellion.")

During his second voyage to Canton, the ship Sampson in which Shaw sailed was attacked at night in the Straits of Banca, by a fleet of Malay prows. The Sampson beat them off, and Shaw displayed much bravery in the action.

In the latter part of the year 1797, on his return to Baltimore from a voyage to the West Indies, as master of a brig, he obtained through the interest of General Samuel Smith and others, a lieutenant's

commission in the Navy of the United States, and joined the US ship Montezuma, Captain Alexander Murray. Having passed a year on board this ship in the West Indies seas, he returned to Baltimore. Shortly after, Captain Murray, who greatly esteemed Shaw's character, procured for him the command of the United States schooner Enterprize, a new vessel mounting 12 six pounders, with a crew of 76 men. (Ed. note, this was the same Enterprize that later went to Galveston in 1820)

In December, 1799, he sailed in the Enterprize for the Windward Island station, and there cruised against the French (during the Quasi-War). In February, 1800, returning from the Island of Curacoa, he fell in with the United States frigate Constellation, after her action with the French national ship La Vengeance. Commodore Truxton charged him with dispatches for the government, with which he returned home in fifteen days.

The Enterprize sailed again, in March 1800, from Philadelphia, with orders to join Commodore Truxton in Jamaica. When off the east end of that island, Captain Shaw learned that the frigate Constellation had sailed with convoy for the United States. In turning to windward to gain his station at St.

Christopher's, he discovered, off the Mona passage, a brig of war to the south-east, gave chase, and closed with her fast. At the distance of about a mile, the 18-gun brig showed Spanish colours and opened fire upon the Enterprize. The latter, showing her colors, still advanced under a press of sail, and when sufficiently near, took a position on the larboard quarter of the Spaniard, and returned her fire. A sharp contest ensued, which lasted 20 or 30 minutes. The two vessels then separated, both being considerably injured. The Enterprize continued, turning to windward, and anchored in the harbour of St. Thomas to refit. Here a circumstance occurred, that shows the impression which the character of the American navy, then in the dawn of its existence, had already made in the minds of the enemy.

Captain Shaw received a message from a large French lugger, that mounted 12 carriage guns, with a crew of about 160 men, inviting him to a trial of strength, which was accepted with three cheers by all hands on board the Enterprize. At the hour appointed, Shaw was under weigh, and when clear of the Danish limits, he hove to and fired a shot towards the harbor, and repeated the fire several times through the day, as a signal that the Enterprize was waiting for the challenger to sally out. But the French captain having, probably, reconsidered the matter, had come to the conclusion that it was better to keep his anchorage.

After a cruise of some days to leeward of the island of St. Croix, the Enterprize beat up to St. Kitts, took in provisions and water, and proceeded on another cruise. Soon afterward (May, 1800), she fell in with a French privateer, La Cigne, of four guns and fifty-seven men, and brought her to close action, which was short, but severe while it lasted. The captain of the privateer manifested great preserverance and personal bravery. He would not consent to surrender, until he had nearly one half of his crew cut

down, and his rigging and sails much shattered. This prize was ordered to St. Kitts.

About a fortnight after the capture of La Cigne, Captain Shaw fell in with the La Citoyenne, of six guns and forty-seven men. This vessel was also brought to close action. Her captain and crew fought desperately, and yielded only when all hopes of success or escape had vanished. She also was dispatched to St. Kitts. In the two actions, the Enterprize had one marine killed, and six or seven men wounded.

It was not long before she was engaged in another contest. Cruising near Antigua, she fell in with a large French three masted lugger, bound to France, which Captain Shaw recognized to be the same which had challenged him to fight at the Island of St. Thomas. After exchanging a few shots, the lugger hauled he colours down. Among her passengers were a Major General and several other officers who were made prisoners.

In June 1800, Captain Shaw fell in with the French privateer, La Eagle, of 10 guns and 78 men, a fast sailor and fortunate cruiser, He brought her to a very close action. Each vessel discharged her first broadside on the opposite tack and close on board the other. The Enterprize tacked as she passed and fired 4 guns in La Eagle's stern; in 15 minutes afterwards, she ran alongside and boarded, without meeting the smallest opposition. In consequence of the well-directed broadside of the Enterprize, the crew of the privateer had fled the deck and taken shelter in the hold. The French captain, with a high reputation for skill and bravery, was struck on the top of his forehead with a round shot, which knocked him down, tore off his scalp, and left him for dead on the deck. The first lieutenant was struck in the breast by a round shot, and killed. The second officer was hit by a cannon shot, which took off a part of one

ear and all the skin on the same side of his head. He also appeared to be dead. The privateer became a prize, and had three killed and 9 wounded, while the Enterprize had only two or three men wounded. The prize was taken into St. Kitts.

In July 1800, being to leeward of the Island of Dominica, Captain Shaw discovered early one morning a French vessel called *Le Flambeau*, mounting 12 guns, with a crew of a hundred persons, officers included, pulling with all her sweeps on the Enterprize. About 10 o'clock A.M., the sea-breeze struck the Enterprize and she immediately made all sail for the enemy. But the latter, as the Enterprize neared, made all sail from her. At two o'clock P.M. she was within the range of the Enterprize's shot, but Captain Shaw had determined not to fire until close on board. The French vessel maneuvered well, with great quickness. As soon as the Enterprize closed with her, she commenced a heavy fire of musquetry on her antagonist, until the two vessels were close on board each other. Then the Enterprize, shortening sail, edged off, received a broadside, and immediately gave one in return. The action became warm, and was maintained with much spirit by the enemy for about twenty minutes, when she trimmed all her sheets and tacked. The Enterprize attempted to tack also, but missed stays and lost ground. On discovering that the other vessel wished to avoid the fight, Captain Shaw trimmed ship again in order to get alongside. The batteries of the two vessels were again opened on each other. The enemy's foremast, which had been wounded being struck with a heavy flow of wind, went overboard with 6 men on it. These were immediately taken up by the boat of the Enterprize. By this time she ranged alongside, and the French vessel quickly struck her colors. The action lasted 40 minutes, during which time the Enterprize fired fourteen round

shot through the hull of the other. On the ship of the French, seven men were killed, and thirty-three wounded; on that of the Enterprize, five men were wounded, all of them recovered. The prize was taken to St. Kitts. Her force was superior in the action. She had a crew of 110 men; the Enterprize but eighty-three.

Again, while cruising in the Antigua passage, in August, the Enterprize took, after a chase of five hours, the French privateer *La Polina*, of six guns and 40 men; and, in September, in the same passage, after exchanging a few shots, the French letter of marque *Guadaloupien*, of 7 guns and 45 men, bound to France with a cargo of coffee and sugar.

During these various cruises of the Enterprize, the average of her recaptures of American vessels in possession of the enemy was nearly a month.

At this time, the decline of his health compelled Capt. Shaw to resign the command of the Enterprize, and return to the United States. He arrived in the Delaware late in November, 1800. At Washington, which he visited the next month, he received in person the compliments and thanks of President John Adams and the Secretary of the Navy, for his valuable services abroad. Verbal orders were given to him to hold himself in readiness to proceed to Boston, and take command of the French national ship *Berceau*, of 26 guns, captured by the frigate *Boston*. The peace with France was succeeded by a navy peace-establishment, in which he was retained as a lieutenant, and placed in the command of the frigate *George Washington*, that carried out the tributary stores to the Dey of Algiers. In this ship, he remained in the Mediterranean for a year, convoying the American trade. He returned with her, in 1802, to Philadelphia, where she was sold. The new regulations putting him on

half-pay, he asked and obtained a furlough, and made a voyage to the Isle of France and Canton. During his absence, a term of eighteen months, he was promoted (on the 22d May, 1801) to the rank of master commander.

The war then waged against Tripoli was actively prosecuted by that intrepid and alert officer, Commander Preble; but his dispatches announced that he was in great want of gun boats. This information induced Capt. Shaw to address a letter to the Navy Department, in which he tendered his services to conduct an expedition of gun-boats to the Mediterranean, and suggested the manner in which it should be equipped and dispatched. The arrival of Commodore Preble in the United States, and his personal representations to government, determined the adoption of Captain Shaw's offer and plan. Accordingly, eight sail of gun-boats were got ready in different ports and dispatched for the Mediterranean from the port of New York. Three sail proceeded (May, 1805), under convoy of Captain Shaw, who had then the command of the frigate John Adams, with 300 seamen on board, in addition to her crew, for the Mediterranean squadron, but in consequence of the peace with the Barbary powers, the frigate returned in December, to Washington, where her crew were discharged, and she was placed in dock. In the same month, Capt. Shaw was ordered to New Orleans to equip a division of gun-boats then building on the western waters.

On the arrival of General Wilkinson from Nacogdoches, in the winter of 1806-7, Captain Shaw was first apprised of the traitorous designs of Colonel Burr, and at a time when his force in the Mississippi River was very inadequate to meet an invading foe. Two bomb-ketches arriving about this period, added, however, much to his strength; and by great exertions, he was enabled to

equip a fleet of eleven sail of gunboats and barges, mounting sixty-one guns, and manned with 148 seamen and troops of the line doing duty as marines. The whole of this squadron arrived off Natchez, early in February, 1807, and were moored in close order, to oppose any force that should descend the river with hostile views to New Orleans. Colonel Burr having fled, and his adherents being dispersed, Captain Shaw returned to New Orleans, where he received orders to repair to Washington. Thither he went, and on his arrival, was summoned to Richmond, as a witness on the trial of Col. Burr. In December, 1807, he was ordered to Norfolk, as a member of the court-martial in the case of Commodore Barron. In the same year, he was promoted to the rank of Post Captain.

After the dissolution of the court-martial, he was invested with the command of the navy yard at that place, and held it until August, 1810, when he received orders to repair to New Orleans. He arrived at Natchez in November, and found there Governor Claiborne, prepared to wrest from the Spanish patriots the post of Baton Rouge. An immediate movement of a body of troops in its vicinity, in conjunction with a division of gun-boats which had been lying at anchor off Natchez for many months, and which covered the landing of the troops, secured the capture of the fort and garrison.

In 1811, Captain Shaw, anticipating the rupture with England, made a particular examination of the eastern passes leading to the city of New Orleans. In July, 1812, the declaration of war reached him, and incited him to renewed exertions for the increase and better organization of the small force under his command. In 1813, his attention was directed to the construction of a large block-ship, laid down by order of the government on a secluded stream

leading into lake Ponchartrain, and distant from New Orleans about 15 leagues. The main deck of this ship was calculated to mount 26 long 32 pounders, and her draft of water with all her armament and stores on board, would not have exceeded eight feet.

In the year last mentioned, Capt. Shaw co-operated with General Wilkinson in taking possession of Fort Charlotte, Mobile, and all the country west of Perdido river. He transported to Mobile point, in his division of gunboats, all the cannon and munitions of war captured on the occasion. Various other arrangements and measures for the security of that region, devolved on him. He was indefatigable in devising plans and collecting materials for the purpose. He caused to be well mounted on mahogany, forty of the heaviest pieces of the cannon at the Navy Yard of New Orleans, which were afterwards distributed along the lines of General Jackson's defense, and found to be signally useful. It was in consequence of his representations that the Secretary of the Navy determined to have six schooners built and sent to New Orleans, for the suppression of pirates and smugglers about the island.

Leaving, besides a fine train of artillery, a full magazine of powder, and plenty of cannon and grape shot, he returned to Washington by land, and remained there until the 15th June, 1814, in order to settle some accounts. (Ed. note, Daniel Todd Patterson took over Commodore Shaw's duties at the New Orleans station in November 1813.) Thence Shaw proceeded to New London and assumed the command of the frigate *United States*, which, with the frigate *Macedonian* and sloop *Hornet*, continued to be closely blockaded by the enemy until the termination of the war. When released, she was ordered to Boston, to be fitted out for the Mediterranean. In 1815, Capt. Shaw joined, in her, the American squadron at

Malaga. The peace signed with Algiers caused a return of a part of the squadron to the United States. The forces remaining, as well as the instructions of the government, were then transferred to Capt. Shaw by his predecessor Commodore Bainbridge. In this charge he was earnestly employed, and he was relieved, in 1816, by Commodore Chauncey; but the frigate *United States* remained on the station, under his command, as late as November, 1817. He soon afterwards obtained permission to visit his family in Philadelphia, from which he had been absent, on duty, upwards of four years. Unhappily his constitution was so much impaired as to require for several months the unremitting care of an eminent physician, and to compel him to spend 14 months in travelling for the recovery of health.

In November, 1819, he took the command of the *Boston Station*, and retained it until he was suspended from duty, for six months, in April 1822. This suspension was caused by an unfortunate controversy with Capt. Hull, the commandant of the Navy Yard at Charlestown (Ms), who preferred against him, before a Court Martial, various charges of contemptuous and hostile treatment. The Court adjudged that he was guilty of "unofficer-like conduct" but not guilty of "ungentlemanly-like conduct." In fact, the conduct pronounced to be "unofficer-like" consisted only in measures which he deemed as self-defence, and necessary for the honor of the navy and the interests of the national treasury. The record of his trial detracts nothing from his character; and his appointment to the command of the Naval station at Charleston, S.C., soon after the expiration of the sentence of suspension, proves that he suffered not at all in the estimation of the government. But his career was about to be closed, by the hand of death. In the beginning of the

summer of 1823, he had again to seek medical aid in Pennsylvania, and appeared to be recovering under skillful treatment, when he was seized with Dysentery, which terminated his existence in little more than a week on the 17th September. He was fifty years of age at the time of his decease. He left a widow and two children, the eldest of whom is married to Lieut. F.H. Gregory of the U.S. Navy.

The funeral of Commodore Shaw took place at Philadelphia, from the house of his particular friend Robert Kid, Esq., in which he had been nursed for several weeks with the utmost kindness and attention. The colours of the shipping in the harbour were lowered half-mast on the occasion, and his remains were interred with martial honors. The Corporation of the Militia, and a large body of citizens, attended city, a number of officers of the Navy, Army & c. to testify their respect for his memory. The

pallbearers were captains Nicholson, Brown, Dallas, Read, Deacon and Gen. Cadwaladar.

The foregoing simple detail of the most prominent incidents of the life of Commodore Shaw, is sufficient to produce a just impression of his services and value as a naval commander, to his adopted country. He was fearless, alert, and distinguished for seamanship and professional sagacity. His letters, written from New Orleans before the last war, prove that he foresaw the dangers to which that great mart would be exposed, and indicated the means by which it could be rendered secure. Generosity, candor, probity, were leading traits in his disposition_his demeanor was always frank and manly. He acquired the esteem and affection of all who knew him well. His family and intimate friends loved him ardently, and deeply deplore his loss.

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AUGUST 2008 JULY 2009

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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.

Annual dues:

Student.....	\$ 15.00
Senior (Over 65).....	\$ 15.00
Institution.....	\$ 15.00
Individual.....	\$ 30.00
Family.....	\$ 35.00
Sustaining Member.....	\$100.00
Life Membership (One Payment) ..	\$350.00

MINUTES

January 13, 2009

BOARD PRESENT: President, Ed Jamison; 1st Vice President, Jim Nonus; 2nd Vice President, Kathy Modzelewski; 3rd Vice President, Lynette Haaga; Secretary Pro-Tem and Archivist, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian, Ginny Roberts.

BOARD ABSENT: Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Editor of Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Privateer-at-Arms (nominal), Wil Zapalac.

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Kathy Modzelewski, Jeff Modzelewski, R. Dale Olson.

ADVISORY BOARD ABSENT: Jean Epperson; Pam Keyes; Don Marler; Gene Marshall; Robert Vogel; Dr. Reginald Wilson.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Steve Austin and Cathy Hitchcock; Ed and Betty Conner; Dan Cote; Frank and Connie Dryden; Clifford Johnson; Linda and Ondree Kuhn; Walter Modzelewski; George Najarian and Lizette Gaudin; Rob and Carolyn Peterson; Larry and Jan Porter; Tom Shehan.

VISITORS: Jane Rushing.

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. The approval of the minutes of the last meeting (the annual banquet) was deferred because Treasurer Nancy Beaman, who took them, is currently displaced in Dallas. President Ed Jamison thanked those who made the annual banquet a success, both attendees, and those who planned and worked it, including George Najarian and Lizette Gaudin, Lynette Haaga, Kathy Modzelewski, Jim Nonus, and Diane Olson.

The President called upon Jeff Modzelewski to re-cap the trip to New Orleans by five members for the annual banquet of the Louisiana Historical Society ("LHS"), held on Thursday evening, January 8, 2009. Representing the Laffite Society were Ed Jamison and Sandra Rodgers, Walter Modzelewski, and Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski. As a Past President, Jeff was included in the printed program as a speaker asked to recount for attendees Galveston's experience during and post-Hurricane Ike. Jeff spoke for nearly ten minutes, and upon his conclusion outgoing LHS President Sally K. Reeves presented to the Laffite Society via Jeff a check for \$500 to use in recreating its archive.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Founding member R. Dale Olson spoke on potential Laffite research opportunities. He made a distinction between research and learning – the former done for the eventual benefit of others, the latter for oneself. Dale also distinguished between researching Laffite and researching the story of Laffite. An example of the former was his and Diane's study of presumed facial images of Laffite, published in an early issue of the Laffite Society Chronicles; examples of the latter – the story of Laffite, "elegant, profound, yet simple" – are the saga of John Andrechyne Laughlin and *The Journal of Jean Laffite*, and the history of Fort Livingston on Grande Terre Island, Louisiana, not constructed until after Laffite's death, but in the Barataria Laffite knew so well a quarter-century earlier.

"Niche authorities" exist, and are recognized, in many fields, so despite the depth and breadth of the Laffite legend, "newbies" can delve into a number of specific research areas:

- The food and drink of Laffite's era, such as café brûlé (still served at Maspero's Exchange) - but there was no Sazerac yet!
- John Andrechyne Laughlin
- Possible Laffite burial places - Dzilam de Bravo for Pierre; Alton, Illinois, for Jean? etc.
- Possible descendants: e.g., those of Pierre Boutté, a contemporary - or even an alias - of Laffite, who still receive oil and gas royalties in southern Louisiana
- Laffite's treasure – e.g., around Galveston, a search by a group a quarter century ago that was funded by an "anonymous Galvestonian" of means, the spokesperson for said group being the late attorney Jim Brady.

Other opportunities to advance research and learning on Laffite include:

- Scanning the publications of The Laffite Society's predecessor, the Laffite Study Group, for posterity

- Printing digital photos from Laffite Society field trips for hard-copy archiving, and also accumulating the related files on electronic media
 - Printing, and scanning to electronic media, minutes of Laffite Society meetings.
- Dale noted that a copy of all of this material could also be donated to interested libraries.

During his talk, Dale mentioned an interesting Internet site facilitating research in newspapers: www.newspaperarchives.com.

After Dale's presentation, Ed noted that long-time member Don Peak had passed away. He also noted that Don Marler would like to pass on his duties as Editor-of-Publications, which Don has discharged admirably for many years, and asked for a volunteer(s) to take on that role.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Submitted by Jeff Modzelewski, Recording/Correspondent Secretary, Pro Tem

February 10, 2009

BOARD PRESENT: President, Ed Jamison; 1st Vice President, Jim Nonus; 2nd Vice President, Kathy Modzelewski; 3rd Vice President, Lynette Haaga; Secretary Pro-Tem and Archivist, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian, Ginny Roberts.

BOARD ABSENT: Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Editor of Publications, (vacant); Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Privateer-at-Arms (nominal), Wil Zapalac.

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean Epperson; Kathy Modzelewski; Jeff Modzelewski; R. Dale Olson.

ADVISORY BOARD ABSENT: Pam Keyes; Don Marler; Gene Marshall; Robert Vogel; Dr. Reginald Wilson.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Steve Austin and Cathy Hitchcock; Ed and Betty Conner; Dan Cote; Wayne Cox; Harry and Anne Forester; Bill Haaga; Clifford Johnson; Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Sheldon Kindall; Linda and Ondree Kuhn; Walter Modzelewski; George Najarian and Lizette Gaudin; Rob and Carolyn Peterson.

VISITORS: John Harris; Judy Pharo; Nelson and Mary Smelker; Terry Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. President Ed Jamison asked for the approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 13, 2009. He acknowledged that since minutes are distributed solely via the yahoo.com Laffite group, some are not receiving them because they have not signed up as members of this group or are experiencing technological difficulty in so doing.

Lynette Haaga made available a sign-up sheet for those who wish to contribute food for future meetings, and said she would call to remind volunteers shortly before their volunteer dates.

Dorothy Karilanovic thanked the group for honoring her at the annual holiday party in December.

Kathy Modzelewski mentioned that although the Laffite Society Archive had been destroyed by Hurricane Ike, a list of Laffite-related works in American Literature had been compiled by member Robert Vogel and published some years back in the *Laffite Society Chronicles*. Kathy also referred members to ABE Books, a quality on-line book-search engine, to find Laffite-related titles for sale.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Jean L. Epperson spoke on maps of Galveston Bay dating from Laffite's time.

Dan Cote volunteered to take over the editorship of the *Laffite Society Chronicles* from former editor Don Marler.

Thanks were extended to Jim Nonus for providing the Society a new site at which to hold meetings, and Jim returned the thanks to those who help stage the meetings, contribute food and drink, do set-up and clean-up, etc.

Jim reminded attendees of the Fat Tuesday Party to be held at that same venue on Tuesday, 02/24/2009, at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jeff Modzelewski, Recording/Correspondent Secretary, Pro Tem

March 10, 2009

BOARD PRESENT: President, Ed Jamison; 1st Vice President, Jim Nonus; 2nd Vice President, Kathy Modzelewski; 3rd Vice President, Lynette Haaga; Secretary Pro Tem and Archivist, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian, Ginny Roberts; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman.

BOARD ABSENT: Editor of Publications Pro Tem, Dan Cote; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Privateer-at-Arms (nominal), Wil Zapalac.

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean Epperson; Jeff Modzelewski; Kathy Modzelewski; R. Dale Olson.

ADVISORY BOARD ABSENT: Pam Keyes; Don Marler; Gene Marshall; Robert Vogel; Dr. Reginald Wilson.

[Note: a sign-in paper was not circulated, so the member and visitor tallies below are incomplete, but they are nearly accurate. Total attendance numbered approximately 30.]

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ed and Betty Conner; Wayne Cox; Frank and Connie Dryden; Bill Haaga; Clifford Johnson; Linda and Ondree Kuhn; George Najarian and Lizette Gaudin; Rob and Carolyn Peterson; Larry and Jan Porter; John Trojanowski; Terri Wright.

VISITORS: Lady Elizabeth Ashley; Eugene Aubrey; Jean Epperson's brother [John?].

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:35 p.m.

President Ed Jamison reminded attendees who had not paid their 2009 dues to kindly do so.

Linda Kuhn discussed a project which she and Jean Epperson have undertaken: to scan and geo-rectify maps of Galveston Island in the Laffite era and estimate where latitude and longitude markings would fall upon them, so as to then attempt to determine the exact location of Laffite's "Maison Rouge." Linda asked that anyone who could make available maps of the Island dating from approximately 1815 to 1835 contact her.

Rob Peterson discussed a project he has undertaken: to accumulate and scan into .pdf files the complete set of publications of the Laffite Study Group. The set that Dale Olson loaned Rob was nearly complete, and Dave Roberts was able to fill in some of the few gaps from his set. Eventually Rob will compile a list of any items he cannot obtain and send out a broader query regarding their availability for loan.

PROGRAM: Ed Jamison moderated a question-and-answer round-table of a number of topics basic to the Laffite saga. These included:

- ◆ Others present on Galveston Island in Laffite's time – the Frenchman Louis Michel Aury and the Spaniard Francisco Javier Mina, the stories of both of whom are interesting of themselves, apart from their Laffite connections;
- ◆ Other early names for Galveston Island: "Snake Island" (in Spanish versions, "*Isla de Culebra*" and "*Isla de Serpiente*"; "*Isla de Malhado*" ("Island of Misfortune"); Campeche; St. Louis Island (perhaps after San Luis Pass, or vice versa);
- ◆ Letters of marque - also called "commissions" and "patents," and may still be issued by the U.S. government today;

- ◆ Frederick/Dominique Youx – possibly a brother of Jean and Pierre Laffite;
- ◆ The provenance of the name of the Laffite enclave in Louisiana, “Barataria” (present-day Grand Isle and Grande Terre) – derived from the Spanish word “barato” (“cheap,” “inexpensive”)? Named after the fictitious land promised as a governorship by Don Quixote to Sancho Panza as an enticement to retain his company? Related to the legal concept of the English word “barratry”?
- ◆ Laffite’s relationship with Napoleon Bonaparte: were they classmates? Did they serve together in the French armed forces? Did the Laffites plot to rescue Napoleon from exile in St. Helena? Are Jean and Napoleon buried at The Temple, along with Jean Paul Jones (Laffite’s uncle, per one theory)?
- ◆ Birthplace of the Laffites: France? Hispaniola (Haiti)?
- ◆ Place and year of death of Jean Laffite: in the Caribbean, in a sea battle with two Spanish ships, about 1823? In Alton, Illinois, in about 1850?
- ◆ First appearances of the Laffites in New Orleans: Jean circa 1804? Pierre a bit earlier, before the Louisiana Purchase in 1803?
- ◆ Laffite descendants - many claim to be. Both Jean and Pierre had mulatto mistresses. Pierre had many children. Some believe Jean had a son and a daughter, and that the son had no progeny but the daughter did. Some “descendants” are Laffites, from a section of Louisiana called “Bayou Pierre,” are actually of no relation; Jean Epperson provided some history of these Bayou Pierre Laffites and referenced an article from the July 1996 issue of the *Laffite Society Chronicles*;
- ◆ The spelling of the surname “Laffite” - many variations were used, including all four combinations of single and double “f”s and “t”s. A Hispanicized version, ending in “a,” is also seen;
- ◆ The “Blacksmith Shop” French Quarter tavern and its relation to the Laffites – it is not believed that this location was ever owned by the Laffites, but a lot across the street may have belonged to them, or to one of their mistresses.

Dale Olson mentioned that the east wall of the supposed Maison Rouge site was a casualty of Hurricane Ike. Architect Eugene Aubrey discussed the method of construction of the wall, and noted that its collapse afforded an opportunity for some interesting research – e.g., to look for markings on brick indicating date of casting, to do an archaeological dig (such as was done several times in years past elsewhere on the property) around the wall’s base, etc. Jim Nonus offered to head a committee to plan such a project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by Jeff Modzelewski, Recording/Correspondent Secretary Pro Tem

April 14, 2009

BOARD PRESENT: President, Ed Jamison; 1st Vice President, Jim Nonus; 2nd Vice President, Kathy Modzelewski; 3rd Vice President, Lynette Haaga; Secretary Pro Tem and Archivist, Jeff Modzelewski; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Editor of Publications Pro Tem, Dan Cote; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson.

BOARD ABSENT: Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Historian, Ginny Roberts; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Privateer-at-Arms (nominal), Wil Zapalac.

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

ADVISORY BOARD ABSENT: Pam Keyes; Don Marler; Gene Marshall; Robert Vogel.

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

President Ed Jamison recognized visitors Dixie Posert and Nancy Beaman’s sister Sara; he acknowledged the presence of Dr. Reginald and Betty Wilson, long-time members now unable to attend meetings as frequently as in the past; and he thanked Lynette Haaga, Cathy Hitchcock, and Mary Smelker for providing the refreshments for the evening.

Jim Nonus asked that some attendees bring folding chairs to the next meeting if able to do so, to facilitate seating in the gallery.

PROGRAM: Jeff Modzelewski discussed his translation of several years past of Mexican author Jorge Ignacio Rubio Mañé's book *The Pirates Laffite* and the significance of that work. Rubio Mañé discovered documentary evidence in the mid-1930's that Pierre Laffite had died in a maritime gun battle with civil authorities off the coast of the Yucatán in November, 1821. This data refuted the erroneous belief, perpetuated over many years, that it was Jean Laffite who had died under these circumstances and at this place and date.

The evidence lay in the testimony of a young Canadian, George Schumph, who was on the vessel with Pierre Laffite when the latter was mortally wounded. Schumph was interrogated as to possible complicity in piratical activities. He disclaimed such involvement and was eventually released, but in the course of his testimony he revealed that Pierre Laffite, older brother of the more famous Jean Laffite, was wounded in the skirmish, was brought ashore, and died and received a proper Christian burial in the Yucatecan town of Dzilam on November 10, 1821.

This vignette piqued the interest of Rubio Mane, who proceeded to craft an entire book on its germ of fact. Dale Olson, who owned the book, suggested to Modzelewski that a translation of extracts from the work might be interesting as a monthly meeting program and/or a submission to *The Laffite Society Chronicles*. Modzelewski saw that although the book contained many chapters, most were brief, and he decided to translate the entire book. He worked on the translation off and on for two and a half years and published it in late 2006. Modzelewski was asked to speak at the 2006 Laffite Society holiday party with the translation as his topic, and attendees received a copy courtesy of the Society.

Modzelewski discussed some other items of interest regarding the book, and a subsequent question-and-answer period proved of interest, as Jean Epperson, Reginald Wilson, Dale Olson, and others provided input on threads of the Laffite saga raised by *The Pirates Laffite*.

Modzelewski offered to contribute a write-up of his talk this evening for publication in the *Chronicles*. He also offered for sale copies of the translation at a price of \$10.00 each, just above cost, and had about six "takers."

After the program, plans for speakers/topics for future meetings were discussed, which include:

- Mike Bailey of the Brazoria County Historical Museum
- Marine archaeologist Tom Oertling
- Jean Epperson, to re-visit her research into John Laughlin
- Volunteers to research and discuss various figures in Laffite lore, such as Louis Aury (Jim volunteered), Vincent Nolte, Lawrence Kearney (Ed may tackle), and Javier Mina (Dale will try to do this one before year-end).

Possibilities for field trips were also discussed, including Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico; Grand Isle and Grande Terre, Louisiana; and even Cuba.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by Jeff Modzelewski, Recording/Correspondent Secretary Pro Tem

May 12, 2009

BOARD PRESENT: President, Ed Jamison; 1st Vice President, Jim Nonus; 2nd Vice President, Kathy Modzelewski; 3rd Vice President, Lynette Haaga; Secretary *pro tem* and Archivist, Jeff Modzelewski; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian, Ginny Roberts; Press Director, Dave Roberts.

BOARD ABSENT: Editor of Publications *pro tem*, Dan Cote; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Privateer-at-Arms (nominal), Wil Zapalac.

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Don Marler; Jeff Modzelewski; Kathy Modzelewski; R. Dale Olson.

ADVISORY BOARD ABSENT: Jean Epperson; Pam Keyes; Gene Marshall; Robert Vogel; Dr. Reginald Wilson.

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

President Ed Jamison recognized guests Ann Burns of Galveston and Jeanne MacDonald of Angleton. He acknowledged Don and Sybil Marler, long-time members now unable to attend meetings as frequently as in the past, and Jan Porter with the Salvation Army for the good work that entity performs.

PROGRAM: Michael Bailey, Curator of the Brazoria County Historical Museum, delivered a lecture and visual presentation titled "Rockets' Red Glare - Early History and Use of the Rocket in Warfare." The talk began by noting that the first documentation of rocket warfare dated from 1232 and concerned a battle in which the Chinese defeated the Mongols, while the first text in English on the construction and use of rockets dates from 1696. Francis Scott Key documented the rockets and the visual impact of their glare in the words to our national anthem as he watched the bombardment by the British of Fort McHenry in Baltimore during the War of 1812. Michael concluded by establishing a local rocketry connection, noting that rockets were manufactured in Galveston during the Civil War era. Michael also distributed several hand-outs related to his lecture.

After the program, the following items were discussed:

- Michael Bailey was asked about the history of the town of San Luis on San Luis Pass. He noted that it existed from about 1840 to 1846, by which time the residents had tired of rebuilding after storms. San Luis had a population of about 4,000, and boasted its own newspaper, *The San Luis Advocate*. Its location was approximately that of present-day Treasure and Mud Islands.
- Treasurer Nancy Beaman reported beginning and ending bank-account balances of \$2,720.14 and \$2,785.14, respectively, and noted that the balances do not vary much except for those months in which the *Laffite Society Chronicles* are issued and the annual holiday party is held. Nancy also noted that the membership list would be uploaded to the Society's Web site.
- Ed Jamison recognized Lynette Haaga for coordinating the refreshments; Lynette in turn acknowledged those who had brought food that evening and encouraged attendees to sign up to do so at future meetings.
- Michael Bailey mentioned the availability of Thomas Edison film of the aftermath of the Great Galveston Storm of 1900, lengthier clips than that at the Galveston County Museum, on-line in the Library of Congress's "American Memory Collection" at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/mopic/ndlmps.html>.
- Michael also mentioned new finds at the San Jacinto Battleground and a lecture by Greg Dimmick about same on Thursday, 05/21/2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Clayton Library in Houston. Researchers have discovered the grounded weapons of surrendering Mexican troops.
- Rob Peterson noted, with regard to his efforts to obtain a complete set of the publications of the defunct Laffite Study Group, that the only issues he lacked were available in the collection of Robert Vogel, and that he would secure copies of these when Robert was available to transmit them.
- Don Marler mentioned that the person to whom he had sold his Dogwood Press publishing company some years back was now offering it for sale for \$15,000. Dogwood Press holds the rights to publish approximately forty titles. The Web address is <http://www.dogwoodpressonline.com>. Don added that he would donate his Risograph printing press to the person who purchased Dogwood Press, or to the Laffite Society if it wished.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Submitted by Jeff Modzelewski, Recording/Correspondent Secretary Pro Tem

June 9, 2009

BOARD PRESENT: President, Ed Jamison; 1st Vice President, Jim Nonus; 2nd Vice President, Kathy Modzelewski; 3rd Vice President, Lynette Haaga; Secretary *pro tem* and Archivist, Jeff Modzelewski; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Historian, Ginny Roberts; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Editor of Publications *pro tem*, Dan Cote; Privateer-at-Arms (nominal), Wil Zapalac.

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

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jeff Modzelewski; Kathy Modzelewski.

ADVISORY BOARD ABSENT: Jean Epperson; Pam Keyes; Don Marler; Gene Marshall; R. Dale Olson; Robert Vogel; Dr. Reginald Wilson.

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

President Ed Jamison welcomed this month's meeting attendees, recognized new members Jesse and Alicia Dunn of Galveston, and acknowledged the presence of Wil Zapalac, a long-time member unable to attend meetings regularly. Ed also thanked those who provided the evening's refreshments.

There was no Treasurer's report, as no activity had occurred since the prior month's report.

PROGRAM: Jim Nonus moderated the evening's program, which was based on two lists copied from the Laffite collection at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, Texas. One was a list of seamen associated with the Laffites from ca. 1800 to ca. 1829 along with their ranks, and prepared by Eugene Laffite, possibly Pierre Laffite's son or grandson. The other lists "Ships owned in syndicate by Jean, Pierre, Frederic You and Reyne Beluchai, The year they were built and the nations captured from." Jim noted that these listings contained much data that could perhaps be confirmed in other documentation about the Laffites and their cohorts, thereby solidifying into fact more of the Laffite lore.

A wide-ranging discussion ensued on many Laffite topics. For example, one question asked concerned the provenance of the name "Campeche"/"Campeachy" used for Laffite's settlement on Galveston Island. Did it arise from the name of the vessel which occurs in the ship listing noted above? And why did Jack Davis, in his book "The Pirates Laffite," not use the name in reference to Laffite's enclave here?

During the program, Jim asked Jeff Modzelewski to read a short article from the April 23, 1818, issue of *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser* of Philadelphia, which mentioned Laffite and the Spanish vessel *Campeachy*.

After the program, Dave Roberts exhibited some artifacts he brought back from the Laffite Society field trip to Grand Isle and Grande Terre, Louisiana - Laffite's Barataria - years ago, along with an aerial map of Barataria Bay.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by Jeff Modzelewski, Secretary *pro tem*

July 14, 2009

BOARD PRESENT: President Ed Jamison; 1st Vice President Jim Nonus; 2nd Vice President Kathy Modzelewski; 3rd Vice President Lynette Haaga; Secretary *pro tem* and Archivist Jeff Modzelewski; Editor of Publications *pro tem* Dan Cote; Parliamentarian Diane Olson; Privateer-at-Arms (nominal) Wil Zapalac.

BOARD ABSENT: Historian Ginny Roberts; Press Director Dave Roberts; Treasurer Nancy Beaman; Coordinator of Research Gary Fretz; Coordinator of Research Pam Keyes.

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jeff Modzelewski; Kathy Modzelewski; R. Dale Olson.

ADVISORY BOARD ABSENT: Jean Epperson; Pam Keyes; Don Marler; Gene Marshall; Robert Vogel; Dr. Reginald Wilson.

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

Ed Jamison welcomed this month's meeting attendees and thanked those who had brought the evening's refreshments. Lynette Haaga circulated a sign-up sheet for the provision of refreshments for future meetings. Ed noted that the minutes of the last meeting had been distributed as usual via the Yahoo Laffite newsgroup, and a brief discussion ensued regarding the difficulties some were encountering in joining that newsgroup. Jim Nonus and Jeff Modzelewski, who have the administrative privileges for the newsgroup, offered to assist those experiencing problems in any way they could. Jim suggested that, if necessary, minutes and announcements could be distributed in a mass e-mail to those for whom the Society has e-mail addresses but who cannot access the newsgroup.

PROGRAM: Dale and Diane Olson presented the evening's program, which discussed a study they had made of purported facial images of Jean Laffite. They originally presented this program at the January 2, 1996, meeting of the Laffite Society and subsequently published a related article in the *Laffite Society Chronicles*.

A number of extant images are alleged to be of Jean Laffite, by artists including De Franca, Fortier, Gros, Jarvis, Little, Suydam (based on a woodcut by Telfer), and Van Everen. These claims are of varying degrees of credibility, with some at the lower end of the spectrum bordering on the ludicrous.

At a time when the ability to manipulate graphics on a personal computer was much more elementary, the Olsons scanned and enlarged a number of these purported images of Laffite and took some nineteen different facial measurements in pixels of them – e.g., the distances from nose to ear, from nose to chin, etc. The Olsons then evaluated the degree of correlation of these measurements between the purported images of a younger Laffite with those of an older Laffite.

Although, as with so many Laffite matters, conclusions cannot be drawn with certainty, the Gros/Jarvis and Gros/Fortier images correlated well, but of all the images studied, perhaps the most likely to be a true representation of the face of Jean Laffite might be that of Suydam, made famous through its use on the cover of Lyle Saxon's book *Laffite The Pirate*.

Jim Nonus noted that his gallery would be relocating to a new location, on the north side of the 2200 block of Postoffice Street in the former Nathan's building, in the near future, hopefully within the next four to six weeks. He invited the Society to a "gallery-warming"/move-in party, with date, time, and details to follow as remodeling approaches completion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Submitted by Jeff Modzelewski, Secretary *pro tem*