



# The Laffite Society Chronicles

Volume XVI Number 2  
September 2010

## **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 at 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month, except for December, at the Meridian Retirement Community, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street just off Seawall Boulevard.

### **Board of Directors**

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### **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

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

## Editor's Page

Dan Cote  
dancotel@comcast.net

A few comments on the contents of this Issue:

In *Letters to the Editor* by Dorothy McD. Karilanovic, charter secretary to the Laffite Society, you will find a collection of material she has translated for members of the Society and others. Look it over, you may find a reference to a subject you have been meaning to research.

You will find *The Status of the Campbell Family Cemetery at Campbell's Bayou* by Jack Watson an interesting discussion of a Laffite compadre and the upkeep of the family gravesite.

Ah, Jean Laffite's likeness is again discussed but this in light of the portraitist with other examples of his work as described by Jean Epperson in *Jean Laffite's Portrait*

Wil Zapalac in *A Short Report on Luis Aury* again presents a well-researched article dealing with a little known facet to a Laffite character.

### Material Submission Notes:

As an absolutely last resort the editor will accept material that has to be scanned. He much prefers WORD or text documents with only elemental formatting. Photos and drawings presented as .jpg or related formats is also preferred.

### 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](http://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](mailto: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.

### **The President's Page**

**Change is always good.....as long as it goes your way. And things are definitely going the Society's way. Membership continues to climb, new and talented speakers are enlightening the crowds and we have some new officers in the organization. As you look at the new slate of officers you'll see the names Lynette Haaga, Jeff Modzelewski and Jim Nonus missing. In the cases of Jeff and Jim it has been some years since they've taken a well-deserved respite. But, being stalwarts of the Society, all three continue to stay busy and lend a hand (or two) as needed.**

**Another good change is our monthly meeting venue. I originally announced that our meeting site was the Edgewater Retirement Center; this location is now called the Meridian, but affords the same, excellent facilities with comfortable seating for more than 60 people.**

**The care and nurturing of the Society's archives has been a major topic since Hurricane Ike devastated the collection two years ago. Jim Nonus, with the valuable help of several volunteers, has re-cataloged the documents so that they can be more readily accessible. The challenge, at present, is finding the locale for just such access. Jim has had discussions with both the Galveston County Historical Society and Texas A&M University at Galveston about facilitating the collection. It is premature at this time to assume that either entity will agree to assume this responsibility; we will keep you apprised of any developments.**

**Through the years, the Society has been fortunate to host many gifted historians and speakers delivering outstanding programs on the Laffites, their associates and corresponding subjects. Unfortunately, there are no permanent recordings of these presentations to be viewed by future members of the Society. Thus, the Board of Directors has approved funding of a camcorder in order to provide audio/visual records of these events for posterity. Of course, they will be added to the archives.**

**I encourage you to make note of these future dates:**

**December 12, 2010- The annual Winter Banquet will be held in the Trolley Station Ballroom, adjacent to Jockusch Building. Messrs Olson and Nonus promise a special production for this fun event.**

**January 8, 2011- The Louisiana Historical Society's annual banquet honoring the Battle of New Orleans. There may be a group from the Galveston area in attendance.**

**Finally, allow me to thank each of you, new members and Society veterans, for your vigorous support and participation. This I wouldn't change for anything!**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

First, I'd like to salute Dan Cote for so bravely stepping up to take over the reins as Editor of THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES. This job, requiring scholarship, editorial skills, meticulous attention to detail and, not in the least, energy and good eyesight, has got to be the most important official function of the Society since it makes possible a formal public repository of the research contributed by members and, hence, a record for posterity of Galveston and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Gulf Coast history.

I also want to express my thanks and appreciation to Don and Sybil Marler for their many years of support for the Society's mission and research, especially to Don for his years of dedication as Editor even as he was at the same time conducting his publishing business and pursuing his lecturing and writing interests. I do hope that he will receive the recognition he deserves from fellow Laffitians for his contributions as Editor as did Jeff Modzelewski for the years he served in this position.

Jeff's article on his translation of J. Rubio Mañé's book *THE PIRATES LAFFITE*, published in the August, 2009 CHRONICLES, was a welcome recap of history on Pierre Laffite's death in the Yucatan in November, 1821, both as an introduction for new members and as a refresher course for those of us of longer standing. Of particular interest to me was Jeff's discussion of the formidable challenge he stated he had trying to effect a wholly satisfying translation for what he termed as certain awkward phrases in the work. During my years as Secretary of the Society and also translator, I can fully sympathize with Jeff's struggle since I experienced something similar when, in 1995, I undertook a Spanish to English translation of the source material of the same document, a pamphlet in Spanish received from Dr. Michel Antochiw of Mérida, Yucatán, which I intended for the Laffite Society archive and not for publication.

In the Summer-Fall of 1995 I completed my translation of the *Summary Investigation Against the Englishman "Don " George Schumph Relative to the Pirate "Don " Pedro Lafit (sic), His Death and His Burial in the Port of Dzilam, Yucatan*, 24 type-written pages for the Laffite Society files . The document I translated consisted presumably of testimony by all of the witnesses available at the time attesting to the events surrounding the death of Pierre Laffite in November, 1821. This source material may also have been available to Rubio Mañé for his book *The Pirates Laffite* although, apparently, he chose to use only four of the testimonial accounts for his work rather than all of them.

On completion of my translation, I sent a copy of the type-written translation in English to Dr. Michel Antochiw, Director of the Centro de Apoyo á la Investigación Histórica de Yucatán to which he subsequently responded cordially. Earlier, I had also requested information from the Centro Apoyo on the research in 1949 of Dr. Edmund Kilbourne Tullidge relating to Pierre's death, this at the request of Dale Olson, co-founder and President at the time of the Society. (See Foreign Language Translations for The Laffite Society in this issue). This correspondence and a copy of the 1995 translation are now in my personal files.

Regarding Jean Epperson's article *1816 MAPS OF GALVESTON BAY*, also in the August, 2009 issue of the CHRONICLES, Jean mentions a map donated by Regan Brown to the Rosenberg Library in Galveston. Regan was a good friend of mine, raised and educated early in Galveston. He was a gifted linguist, bi-lingual in English and Spanish, and had also been a student of Arabic. He married and lived in Mexico for a number of years, eventually returning to Galveston where he owned and operated a used book store located in a small shopping strip on 23rd Street. After Regan's unexpected death in the 90's, following an auto accident on Galveston's Seawall Blvd., I wrote to his son Ragnor Brown in Austin,

Texas, hoping to obtain information on the research Regan had done on Laffite history both in Galveston and in a museum or archive in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Unfortunately, I received no response from Ragnor Brown, and Regan's second wife who was living in Galveston at the time said she had no knowledge of his research. This correspondence is in my collected files in the Laffite Society.

Jean also asks in her article on the 1816 maps if I, myself, had donated a revised translation of one of the maps in the library. As far as I can remember, I did not do so. My copy of the 1816 map of Galveston Bay, including a "key" translated from Spanish to English of 32 sites, and letters written in October 1995 to and from a Mexican archive relating to acquisition of the map, are also in my collected files in the keeping of the Society. (See list in FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATIONS FOR THE LAFFITE SOCIETY at end of this letter)

Along with the foregoing comments intended to augment the history of events in the work of the Society, I also include at this writing a list, mentioned above, of 38 translations from Spanish and French and from English to both languages dated from August, 1994 to January, 2007. Copies of most of these, along with photocopies of the original documents from which the translations were made, are also in the Society's files where, perhaps, at some time they can be made accessible for the interest of members.

A complete set of approximately 150 reports, or "Minutes", of the Society's meetings from its inception in July, 1994, through August, 2008, were recently recorded on CD-ROM by Rob and Carolyn Peterson of the Laffite Society.

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Marooned inland in southwest Florida several miles from the coast, I seldom see the changing face of the Gulf Waters. Floridians here call this area "Paradise", but for me, Galveston Island will always be my "Paradise Lost".

Best to all,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
A.K.A. "Secretary Emerita"  
Laffite Society

# FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATIONS FOR THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

By  
D. McD. Karilanic

Aug., '94

French to Eng. Handwritten Laffite Journal entries from the 19th century, allegedly by Jean Laffite and some of his contemporaries (for Don Marler) (Typescript & translation by D. McD. Karilanic).

Aug., '94

Eng. to French Letter to genealogical group, LePecq, France, response to inquiries for Don Marler of Dogwood Press & submission of request for info on Alexander Hamilton & his alleged relationship to Christina Levine, wife of J. Laffite. (Eng. trans. by D. McD. Karilanic for Don Marler)

Sept. 18, '95

French to Eng. Laffite Copybook #322 (quoted entries of a philosophical nature said to be in the privateer's own handwriting). (Typescript & translation by D. McD. Karilanic for Dr. Reginald Wilson).

Oct., 1995

Spanish to Eng. 1810 (1816?) Map of Galveston Bay. 1) Two letters to the Mexican Archives relating to acquisition of map. (Eng. translation for the LS); 2) letters from the Mexican Archives (Eng. trans. for the LS) 2) Translation into Eng. of approx. 32 sites printed on map (typescript in Span., 3 pp.); preparation of "key" for map sites in Eng. (for the LS). Trans. by D. McD. Karilanic.

Summer-Fall, '95

Spanish 1) Letter to Dr. Michel Antochiw, Dir., Centro de Apoyo á la Investigación Histórica de Yucatán, requesting information on the research in 1949 of Dr. Edmund Kilbourne Tullidge relating to the death of Pierre Laffite in the Yucatan. (for Dale Olson). 2) Span. to Eng. (Translation of article, *Summary Investigation Against*

*Against the Englishman "Don" George Schumph Relative to the Pirate "Don" Pedro Lafit (sic), His Death and His Burial in the Port of Dzilam, Yucatan.* 24 pp. (for the LS; copy in Eng. to the Centro de Apoyo in Mérida, Yucatán) Trans. by D. McD. Karilanic.

Feb 26, 1996

French to Eng. Handwritten page (allegedly by Jean Laffite) from Laflin-Laffite-Mortimore family Bible with names and dates of immediate members of his family. (Transcription and translation by D. McD. Karilanic for Dr. Reginald Wilson)

'95-'96

French to Eng. Questions, Responses, and two articles on Jean and Pierre Laffite and persons of this surname, published in various issues of the bulletin Généalogie et Histoire de la Caraïbe. (16 typewritten pp.) (for the LS Trans. by D. McD. Karilanic.)



April 8, 1996

English to French Request to the genealogical group GHC for information on family names of LECAME (or LECAM), NAU, MOITURE, and L'OLLONNAIS (Eng. trans. for Jean Epperson). Trans. by D. McD. Karilanovic.

Jan., '96 - May, '96

French to Eng. 1) Handwritten letter [dated Dec. 31, '95] from Patrick Laffite [sic] of Corneilla del Vercol, France who claims descent from Jean Laffite. (Typescript and translation to Eng. for the LS). 2) French. Letter (of April 2) to Patrick Laffite (trans. to Eng. for the LS). 3) French to Eng. (Translation of response [dated Apr. 27] from P. Laffite for the LS, including 7 letters from various cities in France with information on birth, marriage, death dates of Laffite family members 4) French. Letter [dated May 22] to P. Laffite (Eng. trans. by D. McD. Karilanovic for the LS).

June 7, 1996

French to Eng. "Lucky Find in the Dustbin," by Michel Rateau. A short article from the bulletin Généalogie et Histoire de la Caraïbe, No. 82:May,'96, p. 1631. [539 words] [a short article about a book written in 1875 by Just Girard, a participant in the Champ d'Asile refuge experiment) Trans. by D. McD. Karilanovic.

July 3, 1996

French to Eng. "Laffite, Brothers & Co., Buccaneers, Or the Impossible Quest," by Bertrand Guillot de Suduiraut, Généalogie et Histoire de la Caraïbe, No. 82: May, 1996, pp. 1618-1620. [2,710 words], [short article about verification of birth origins for Pierre & Jean Laffite and other family members] Trans. by D. McD. Karilanovic

July 12, 1996

French to Eng. Handwritten letter signed by Jean Laffite to his friend and business associate, Monsieur Marsaudon, in Bordeaux, France, January 23, 1791. [This Jean Laffite may not be the one of legend - note date of letter.] Letter obtained from the Marsaudon Collection, Lauringer Library, Washington, D.C.. Transcription by D. McDonald Karilanovic & Jeff Modzelewski; translation, D. McD. Karilanovic. [225 words]

July 17, 1996

French to Eng. Two handwritten documents [474 words] from Dec., 1841, regarding a land exchange between Marianne, sister of Louis the Indian, Rosalie Courteau, wife of Jacques Billot and Mr. C.L. Duroy [Daroy ?]. Transcription by D. McDonald Karilanovic & Jeff Modzelewski; translation by D. McD. Karilanovic. [For Mr. A.J. Billot of Houston and Terrebonne, LA, claimed descendant of Jean Laffite, alias Billot.]

July 29, 1996

French to English Handwritten "Charterparty" by Jean Laffite, 1819, regarding the corsair LE BRAVE. Transcription from French and translation [510 words] by D. McD. Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society, Galveston Island, TX 77553. [For Dr. Reginald Wilson and The Laffite Society archives)

August 16-19, 1996

French to English Handwritten letter in French from Patrick Laffite, dated July 6, 1996, transcription and translation & response in French, with English trans. by 1). McD. Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite

Society, P.O. Box 1325, Galveston Island, TX 77553. [For The Laffite Society] [transcrip. 749 words; translation 803).

August 19, 1996

French to English Typewritten letter in French from the Society of the History of French Protestantism relating to Laffite genealogy, dated July 6, 1996; trans. to English by D. McD. Karilanovic [for The Laffite Society] [186 words].

December 20, 1997

French to English Trans. of excerpted commentary by Pierre Bardin entitled "Laffite or the Art of Dissimulation," printed in Généalogie et Histoire de la Caraïbe, No. 85; Sept., 1996, p. 1718. [Trans. by D. McDonald Karilanovic for The Laffite Society] [ 706 words]

December 20, 1997

French to English Trans. of excerpted article from Généalogie et Histoire de la Caraïbe, No. 85; Sept., 1996. The article is a commentary by Sidney Emery on one printed on p. 1618 of a previous issue, entitled "Laffite, Frères et Cie, Flibustiers." [trans. by D. McDonald Karilanovic for The Laffite Society] [418 words]

January 9, 1997

English to French. Answer to letter of Patrick Lafitte of ,July, '96, thanking him for various enclosures, including a register of over 2,000 names of persons with the surname of Lafitte, and a copy of a Coat-of-Arms for the name Lafitte. The letter also expressed an invitation from the LS to Patrick to accompany members on the special event trip to Louisiana in May, 1997.

April 7, 1997

French to English. Trans. of typescript of chronological list of important dates connected with Jean and Pierre Laffite, their families and main events of their lives: "*JEAN ET PIERRE LAFITTE, RÉSUMÉ; DE LEURS VIES*," ["Jean and Pierre Lafitte, Resume of their Lives"]. Author and date unknown. Donated to the Laffite Society by member, Robert B. Looper of Golden Meadow, LA, who says he found it in the "vertical tile at the New Orleans Public Library, Louisiana Room, Main Branch." Mr. Looper says the information "seems to loosely track The Journal of Jean Lafitte," by John Lafflin. [trans. by D. McDonald Karilanovic for the LS.] [1,891 words].

April 21, 1997

French to English. Trans. of a page (issue & page no. not given) from the bulletin, Généalogie et Histoire de la Caraïbe, entitled "Leads on the Saga of Laffite," by Michel Camus, further commentary on genealogical research done by Pierre Bardin of GHC. Information submitted to Don Marler, Woodville, TX by author & genealogist Michel A. Rateau. Trans. by D. McD. Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society, Galveston Island, TX, 77553. [869 words]

April 25, 1997

French to English. Trans. of information sent to Don Marler at Woodville, TX, from author Michel A. Rateau, describing the latter's genealogical research in South Africa and academic services. Excerpted from an issue of the bulletin Généalogie et Histoire de la Caraïbe (issue & page not provided). Trans. by D. McD. Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society, P.O. Box 1325, Galveston Island, TX 77553. [170 words]

April 25, 1997

French to English. Trans. of short excerpt of information relating to academic services offered, provided in the bulletin Généalogie et Histoire de la Caraïbe (issue no. not given), by genealogist and contributor to GHC Michel A. Rateau. Trans. by D. McD. Karilanic, Secretary, The Laffite Society, P.O. Box 1325, Galveston Island, TX, 77553. [223 words]

September 19, 1997

French to English. Transcription from original handwriting in French & translation of document written in first person, describing early events and memories of childhood (this excerpt is also to be found in English beginning on the first past of *The Journal of Jean Laffite: the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story*). (Dr. Reginald Wilson, who requested this translation, stated that the page may be from the original handwritten document later published in English as stated above, "before the fire at the T. V. station," and is presumably from the hand of Jean Laffite. Transcription & translation by D. McDonald Karilanic, Secretary, The Laffite Society.

September 19, 1997

French to English. Transcription of two handwritten pages in French, plus translation to English. Document consists of signaling directions said to have been given by Jean Laffite to a Monsieur Jean Juanvilles (sp. ?), Captain of the French corsair named THE CONFIANT, Galveston, May 9, 18...(Xeroxed copy provided has right edge obscured, numbers not visible). Transcription & translation by D. McDonald Karilanic, Secretary, The Laffite Society.

May 19, 1998

Spanish to English. Commission for a Letter of Marque for Don Juan Salvador de Torres' ship "El Bravo," under command of Juan Désfargues, dated 1818. Transcription & translation, 2 pages, by D. McD. Karilanic, Secretary, The Laffite Society; at the request of Dr. Reginald Wilson. French original consists of one legal-sized Xeroxed page.

June 15, 1998

English to Spanish. Typescript of letter composed in Spanish on official Laffite Society stationery, addressed to MUSEOS NACIONALES DE CARACAS (on behalf of Jean L. Epperson). Request for a photocopy or other rendering of the revolutionary flag of the colonial port of Cartagena on the coast of Columbia, S.A., believed to have been in use in 1811. A description of the flag was included in the letter. Trans. by D. McD. Karilanic, Secretary, The Laffite Society.

June 17, 1998

French to English. Order for Cargo Permit signed by Jean Laffite, Port of Campeche (Galveston), April. 15, 1818. Transcription & trans. by D. McD. Karilanic, Secretary, The Laffite Society, at the request of Dr. Reginald Wilson.

August 24, 1998

Spanish to English. Feb. 26, 1817, letter signed by Pierre & Jean Laffite. Printed document (Letter 83, "legajo" 492, No. 18,688) from a text of publications from the National Archive of Cuba, LIII, entitled Documentos Para la Historia de México, compiled and arranged by José L. Franco, Havana, Cuba, 1961, p. 89. (Letter provided by Laffite researcher & author Robert C. Vogel. from a text obtained at the University of Minnesota Library.) Trans. by D. McD. Karilanic, The Laffite Society. [Word count, 450] (cf. The Laffite Society Chronicles, Feb. 1999)

August 24, 1998

Spanish to English. July 23, 1817 letter from Pierre Laffite, written on Galveston Island to his brother Jean Laffite in New Orleans. Printed document (Letter 111, "legajo" 492, No. 18,688) taken from a text of publications from the National Archive of Cuba, LIII, entitled Documentos Para la Historia de México, compiled and arranged by José L. Franco, Havana, Cuba, 1961, pp. 134-135. (Letter provided by Laffite researcher & author Robert C. Vogel from a text obtained at the University of Minnesota Library.) Trans. by D. McD. Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society. [Word count, 853] (cf. The Laffite Society Chronicles, Feb. 1999)

August 24, 1998

Spanish to English. August 16, 1817 letter from Pierre Laffite on Galveston Island to Jean Laffite. Printed document (Letter 114, "legajo" 492, No. 18,688) taken from a text of publications from the National Archive of Cuba, LIII, entitled Documentos Para la Historia de México, compiled and arranged by José L. Franco, Havana, Cuba, 1961, pp. 137-138. (Letter provided by Robert C. Vogel, Laffite researcher & author, from a text obtained at the University of Minnesota Library). Trans. by D. McD. Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society. [Word count, 528] (cf. The Laffite Society Chronicles, Feb. 1999)

August 24, 1998

Spanish to English. September 1, 1817 letter signed "No. 13." Printed document (Letter 115, "legajo" 492, No. 18,688) from a text of publications of the National Archive of Cuba, LIII, entitled Documentos Para la Historia de México, compiled and arranged by Jose L. Franco, Havana, Cuba, 1961, pp. 138-141. (Letter provided by Laffite researcher & author Robert C. Vogel from the text obtained at the University of Minnesota Library). Trans. by D. McD. Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society. [Word count, 1801] (cf. The Laffite Society Chronicles, Feb. 1999)

May 14, 1999

French to English. Letters dated April 13, June 20, and July 30, 1821, from traveler, Pierre Goux, born in 1800 at Passage d'Agen, France, while on a transatlantic crossing destined for Havana, Cuba. Published in an article by Lucile Bourrachot in Généalogie et Histoire de la Caraïbe, No. 103, April, 1998, pp. 2188-2190, from information provided by Mr. Henri Bouet, La Gravade, 47390 LAYRAC, France, descendant of Pierre Goux. (Letter of June 20 describes an encounter with a French pirate and his crew off the coast of Cuba, claiming to be "insurgents.") Trans. By D. McDonald Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society. [Word count: approx. 2,000 words or 4 single-spaced pp.] (cf. The Laffite Society Chronicles, Feb. 1999)

March 12, 2000

French to English. Overseas passport, dated 1802, Bordeaux, France, for Pierre Laffite, copy of document received from Patrick Lafitte, Laffite Society member of France. Document is in the format of an official form from the "Councillor of State, Prefect of the Department of Gironde," with pertinent information entered in longhand. Translated by D. McD. Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society, with assistance from French linguist and scholar, Prof. Gene Marshall of McNeese University, Lake Charles, LA, relating to information pertaining to brief physical description and interpretation of the method of historical dating used during the French Revolutionary period and in this document. (One page document) June 11, 2000

June, 2000

French to English. Chapter, "Le Dossier Laffite," pp. 277-278, from Louis-Jean Calvet's book *Barataria: l'Étrange Histoire de Jean Laffite, Pirate*, published by Plon, 1998 (France). ISBN 2259-18313-1. Trans. by D. Karilanovic, The Laffite Society. 1 1/3 single-typed pp. (At request of Jean L. Epperson)

August 1, 2000

French to English: Letter dated May 29, 2000 sent to French member Patrick Laffite from Gérard Panisset, Genealogist-Paleographer, 439 Route du Fier, La Goiffetaz, 74370 NavesParmelan; concerning his opinions on several pp. of the handwriting in *The Journal of Jean Laffite: the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story*, which he had examined at the request of Patrick Laffite. Trans. by D. Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society. (See also Patrick Laffite's translation of this same letter on file in the LS archive under "Panisset Critique of The Journal".)

March 29, 2001

French to English: Hand-writing study of *The Journal of Jean Laffite: the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story* by Laffite Society member Patrick Laffite, submitted for a seminar given March 9, 2001, at The University of Texas at Austin entitled, *The French in Texas*, under the sponsorship of the French and Italian language departments. As Mr. Laffite was not present at the seminar, the paper was not read and subsequently was translated by D. Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society, for inclusion in the Society's archive.

May, 2003

French to English: Excerpts from chapter entitled *Le Dossier Laffite* in a book by Louis-Jean Calvet, socio-linguist, *Barataria. l'Étrange Histoire de Jean Laffite, pirate*, published in 1998 by PLON. Excerpts from pp. 292-305 focusing on Calvet's conclusions on why he believes *The Journal of Jean Laffite*, alleged diary of the privateer, supposedly written from 1845-1850 by Laffite, is a forgery. (cf. *The Laffite Soc. Chronicles*, Oct., 2003)

June 9, 2004

French to English: Handwritten "navigation order" from Jean Laffite, Campeachy (Galveston) Island, Bay of Galveston, April, 1818. Trans. by Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society, P.O. Box 1325, Galveston Island, TX 77553. Requested by Dr. Reginald Wilson, long-time researcher and Advisory Board Member. Approx. 10 lines.

May 2, 2005

French to English: Handwritten letter from Jean Laffite to Edward Livingston dated October 4, 1814. French typescript and English translation by Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic, with assistance in reading of handwriting from a native French speaker and professor of French (Mrs. Aline Wardle of Galveston). Letter translated at request of Dr. Reginald Wilson, Advisory Board Member of Laffite Society and long-time researcher of Laffite history and *The Journal of Jean Laffite*. Approximately 22 typewritten lines.

January 6, 2007

French to English: Baptismal Record of Pierre Eugene Desdunes and Hatrel, donated by Laffite Society member Mr. Joseph F. d'Aquin, 1712 Colony Road, Metairie, LA 70003. (Mr. d'Aquin is a descendant of Francoise Sel.) Trans. by D. McDonald Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society

January 10, 2007

English to Spanish: Short e-mail correspondence (7 lines) to Dr. Michel Antochiw of Mérida, Yucatán, notifying him of the arrival of a small group of members from THE LAFFITE SOCIETY for a visit from Jan. 14-21, 2007. Trans. by D. McDonald Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society.

January 11, 2007

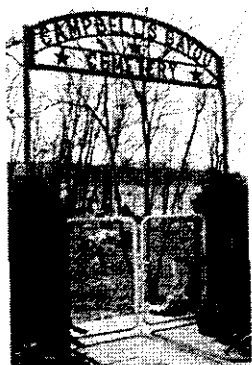
English to Spanish: Ten-line e-mail letter to Piedad Peniche Rivero, Director of the General Archive in Mérida, Yucatán, notifying her of a visit of Laffite Society members Jan. 14-21, 2007 with a request to meet her. Trans. by D. McDonald Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society.

January 24, 2007

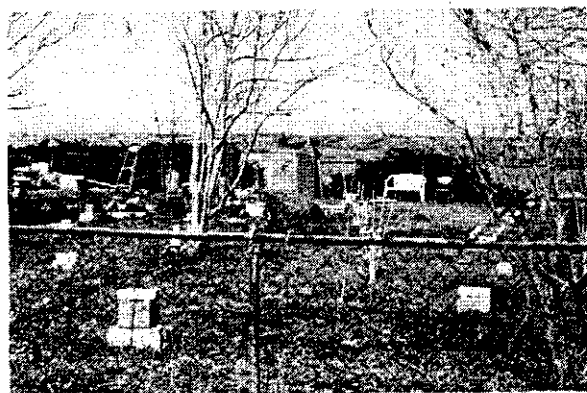
French to English: Xeroxed copy of death notice of Francoise Sel, widow of one Pierre Lafitte (a small inset amongst others on size 8 ½ x 11 in. paper, from the *New Orleans Bee*, year 1855) . [date written in Mr. Joseph F. d'Aquin's hand], donated by him on Dec. 15, 2007. Trans. by D. McD. Karilanovic, Secretary, The Laffite Society

# THE STATUS OF THE CAMPBELL FAMILY CEMETERY AT CAMPBELL'S BAYOU

by  
Jack Watson



My interest in James Campbell started when I noticed in an edition of the Laffite chronicles for 1993, a planned meeting for the society on Virginia Point to visit the gravesite of James Campbell. I live across the causeway from that site and decided to go see it myself. Somehow I felt Mr. Campbell to be a neighbor of mine. The life of James Campbell reads like a Hollywood script. It would make a perfect movie but only one actor could play James Campbell. It would have to be John Wayne. There's even a heroine in Mary Sabinal Campbell. Here's the script.



Born in Ireland in 1786, James Campbell emigrated to the U S with his family when he was four years old. They settled in Baltimore Maryland. At the age of 14 he became an apprentice mast builder and at 18 joined the U S Navy. As a gunner he was recognized for his heroism during the war of 1812 at the battle of Lake Erie. He served aboard the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) under Commodore Perry. After discharge he moved to the coast of the Gulf of Mexico and met filibusters Mina and Aury. He also met New Orleans residents Jean and Pierre Laffite. In 1814, he met the heroine, Mary Sabinal near Orange Texas on the Sabine River where Mary's family operated and owned the Knox ferry. In 1816 he sailed a one mast sail boat up the Sabine

alone and married her. After a short time trying to settle down to cattle raising and farming the lure of the sea called and James and Mary joined Jean Laffite in Campeche. Mary was one of a few women on the Island community. Campbell became one of Laffite's most trusted and loyal corsairs and brought in the biggest prizes. When Laffite left the island, James and Mary Campbell stayed. His days of privateering were over. For the next fifteen years they lived in various locations including Pine Bluff (Orange), New Orleans, and near Double Bayou south of Anahuac in Chambers country. In 1836 they moved to Galveston Bay's Deer Island. They were run off by a storm in 1838, and moved to Virginia Point south of Swan Lake. There, on 1500 acres they raised a family and headed a small community that became known as Campbell's Bayou. The community had a small family cemetery and several generations were buried there. The community was destroyed in the 1900 storm, rebuilt, and abandoned after the 1915 storm. James ironically died in a sailboat accident in 1856. On a trip to Galveston, alone, he was caught in a squall and drowned. Mary lived another three decades, raising kids and running the family cattle and farm business. James Campbell lived the last 18 years of his life at Virginia Point, a respected citizen, cattleman, farmer, and Texan. End of script.

I had understood that Campbell's Bayou was a restricted area due to hazard waste but didn't realize exactly how bad it was. I took a ride over the Causeway one day hoping to determine the layout of the place and perhaps, just perhaps, might get a glance of the Campbell family cemetery. The gate was open, signs warned people to stay out but I pressed on, driving down a raised shell road for a mile or two through an open prairie. When I came into the old Malone Industries oil storage facility it reminded me of an episode from the Twilight Zone from the 1960's. With its abandoned hangers, empty offices, and

cracked concrete, it was downright eerie to say the least. I realized I couldn't find the cemetery and started to leave when I noticed a mobile building with a truck out front. I introduced myself to the young man there and he warned me I was there without permission. I told him I knew that and would leave, but I would like to take a picture of the cemetery. He took me to it. The Campbell family cemetery was in good shape, having been recently cleaned up and mowed. The young man told me that Frank Dick cleaned the place up regularly. I took my pictures and left.

Next I contacted Frank Dick. In an interview on the phone he filled me in on a lot. Mr. Dick, it seems, is a descendant of James and Mary Campbell and has numerous relatives buried in the cemetery. He is very knowledgeable about his own genealogy and the history of Texas. He claims to be a descendant of John Dick, the district attorney of New Orleans in 1814, and later Federal judge. D. A. Dick is known for charging Andrew Jackson with contempt of court. I asked Frank Dick if I could help him clean the cemetery some time and volunteered the use of my lawnmower and weed eater.

Then I talked with Charles Abshire, the EPA site supervisor for the Campbell Bayou/ Malone Industries toxic waste situation. It seems that this facility, which operated between 1964 and 1997, is one of the most toxic places in the country. Every petroleum related waste and harmful element one could think of is stored there without proper safeguards. The so called cleanup solution to the situation is to merely monitor and contain the mess inside a 14 foot earthen dirt wall covering 150 acres, probably forever. Two water aquifers underline the site. One is shallow (100 ft) but contains no potable water. It empties into West Bay. Mercury and lead have been detected there. The other aquifer is the Chico Aquifer from which we all drink and bath in. It varies in depth, around 1100 feet. Mr. Abshire politely told me he would not give me permission to go back to the cemetery. He only allows Frank Dick to go and if I tagged along with him it was at my own risk. He suggested for instance, that I not bring home my lawn mover and weed eater back home. If Frank Dick calls me I think I'll call in sick.

I was most impressed with the fact that James and Mary Campbell lived for two years on Dear Island, and although it is a beautiful place, it is desolate and isolated. I can't imagine living there. Today, Dear Island is the largest and most productive bird sanctuary and nesting ground in the Galveston Bay complex. Volunteers have recently done improvements to the island to protect it from erosion caused by wash from the Intracoastal Canal. The location has received the prestigious Coastal American Partnership Award for efforts to preserve, conserve, and protect the environment there. James and Mary would be proud.

If somehow James Campbell could wake up and stand up in that grave of his with me beside him, I think he would say something like this – "Pilgrim, what in the devil has happened to my place, and who's responsible for this desecration?" Remember, this is John Wayne. Here is an easy exercise for all of us. The next time you drive north on I-45 and reach the top of the Galveston Causeway take a look. At your two o'clock position you'll see some white oil tanks about three miles away. Look in front of them about a mile and you will see some smaller rusted and faded tanks that look like an ugly brown. You're looking at Campbell's Bayou, a national environmental disaster. No one will live there again for hundreds of years. Now look at your ten o'clock position. Two miles away, right off Tiki, is Dear Island, a place we all can be proud of. We sapiens have a choice on how we treat our Earth. I can't think of another place where the consequences of those choices are more evident.

My resources in studying James Campbell and his life were the usual suspects. Both Ramsay and Davis talk about Campbell. In addition, W. T. Block offers the most comprehensive biography of James and Mary. Interestingly enough Stanley Faye refers to Campbell as "unqualifiedly a liar". William Davis



warns in his footnotes to take Campbell with a grain of salt, because his interviews were done three decades after the facts, by which time Laffite was a legend and Campbell might have had his own agenda. All of Laffite's men that settled in the area of Galveston Bay righteously denied any piracy. They were legitimate privateers. James probably went to his grave thinking he could be charged with piracy at any time. By far the most interesting reference was a June 1855, interview of Campbell by Mirabeau B. Lamer. In this interview, Campbell gives some insight into a number of events in the life of Jean Laffite. He talks of the Marot duel, the Kearny visit with Laffite in 1820, the facts surrounding his separation from Laffite, and the Duval mutiny. Also covered is the meeting in 1838, between Campbell and William Cockrum in Galveston Bay at Red Fish reef. At this meeting Campbell is informed by Cockrum about the circumstances surrounding Laffite's death. James Campbell was an interesting man and lived an extraordinary life. I'm proud to have him as a neighbor.

[editor's note: to locate the cemetery go to Google Maps: 20°20'04.61"N;94°54'15.88"W]



Figure 1

# JEAN LAFFITE'S PORTRAIT

Jean L. Epperson

The Jean Lafitte portrait signed by Telfer was first located in the book, *Pictorial History of Texas* by Homer S. Thrall. The book was published in 1879, in St. Louis by N. D. Thompson and Co. The portrait (Figure 1) is the earliest likeness found of Jean Lafitte and probably the most authentic of the corsair.

The book contains three portraits of Indian Chiefs: Placido, Chief of the Tonkawas (Figure 2), a Chief of the Kiowas (Figure 3) and a Caddo Chief (Figure 4), also one scene of Aransas Bay (Figure 5) all signed by Telfer. The signature is written in cursive by the same hand. The three Indian sketches read Telfer Sc. The Aransas Bay sketch reads J. R. Telfer. St. L and the Lafitte portrait is only signed Telfer. The artist uses the "Lafitte" spelling rather than "Laffite." The portraits of the Indians

each have a faint signature on the bottom right. All are unreadable except the Kiowa's that may be MACAWLE. Some have theorized that the artists were other than the engravers. John R. Telfer, a wood engraver and designer belonged to a noted family of early American book illustrators and wood engravers.<sup>1</sup>



Figure 2

In 1860 Telfer was living in Campbell County Kentucky, was 35 years old, listed his birthplace as New York and his profession as engineer. His wife Sarah 30, son Lewis 10, and Mary J. Telfer 70 were in the household. In 1900 John R. Telfer, living in St. Louis, Missouri, listed his age as 75, his profession as wood engraver, his father's birthplace as New York and his mother's, England.



Figure 3



Figure 4

Another publication with four black and white sketches, probably woodcuts, signed Grosvenor and Telfer, appear in "The Life and Adventures of John A. Murel: the Great Western Land Pirate" by August Q. Walton. The book was published about 1834 - 1835. These sketches are crude scenes of men and horses and do not compare artistically to the portraits in Thrall. The Grosvenor and Telfer families appear together many times in places and business in the U. S and England. Perhaps they were related.



Figure 5

<sup>1</sup> George C. Groce and David H. Wallace. *The New York Historical Society's Dictionary of Artists in America. 1563- 1860.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 1957.

# A SHORT REPORT ON LUIS AURY

By Wil Zapalac

Note: This report is a result of numerous sources. The info on the privateer Luis Aury, as far as his exploits after 1817, were passed on to me by one Lynn Overbay of Galveston. Mr. Overbay, among other things, is a sailboat enthusiast and lives on Galveston Island. His source for the Aury studies came from one Helen Gordon Litrico (08/20/27-02/16/08). Ms. Litrico was the founder of *Amelia Now*, a notable magazine, published on Amelia Island, Florida. Another source was the Laffite Society's effervescent researcher, Jean Epperson. Ms. Epperson's "Jean Laffite and Corsairs On Galveston Bay" was printed in the *Laffite Society Chronicles* of July, 1997 and has excellent material in it.

Also used were the papers of Ben C. Stuart, Mirabeau B. Lamar and J. O. Dyer, respectfully.

As best as it is known, the birth of Luis Aury was in 1789, in Paris, France. He joined the French Navy, perhaps at the early age of 12 or 14 years, as was the custom back then. He deserted the same force at the harbour of New York, in 1802, along with several other crew members. Aury was already a 2nd Lieutenant at the time. Not one to dawdle, Aury became commander of a privateer vessel in 1813. under Venezuelan letters of marque. This was at the age of 24.

Aury was said to have originally arrived on Galveston Isle or, as it was also known, Snake Island, possibly in 1816. There is evidence he was also on the island when Laffite's government was forming up in April of 1817. Whether he was included, in some degree, in that agreement or the 'Bos' chose not to bring him in or if Aury himself chose not to join, such is not clear. He did sail off the next month, leaving one vessel behind. Whether the vessel was left due to a gambling debt or due to damages, this was also not clear.

Later in late June or early July, of the same year, Aury returned and became involved in a heated discussion with Laffite. one must consider the fact that both privateers were of French ancestry and still were not getting along.

According to reports, Aury demanded that Laffite leave the island since he (Aury) had arrived first. To this Laffite calmly refused. Then, supposedly, Aury asked to be allowed to join or rejoin Laffite's force. For whatever reason, to this Laffite also refused. Then, almost comically, Aury demanded payment for the improvements done to the island. Then, once again, for whatever reason in Laffite's head, his head treasurer, Rousselin, is mentioned, as Laffite replies all back wages to Rousselin have been paid and he (Laffite) refuses to pay for anything else.

Aury vows revenge. Letters go out to the customs collector in New Orleans, Beverly Chew and Manuel Herrera, an on-again, off-again associate of Laffite, that stayed behind in New Orleans. Aury's letters accuse Laffite of the straying away from the use of letters of marque'. This is an old accusation for the 'Bos'.

It is at this point that I would like to introduce some mists of mystery to the already heavily-laden mists surrounding Aury.

Aury's ventures carried him up and down the coast of nowadays Texas. There was also a failed filibuster into Mexico itself. Yet, while Aury did dock his fleet at Matagorda Bay, which is still at least a half-day's

sail, in good weather, from the isle of Galveston; his presence there did not go un-noticed. Antonio Martinez, a Spanish official in Bexar (San Antonio), had spies keeping up with Aury. To Spain, with Laffite on Galveston Island and Aury at Matagorda Bay, this was an obvious French invasion. Yet, at this very point, something odd occurs. On July 26, 1817, Martinez sends a communiqué to the powers in Mexico. His spies had reported that a major battle of some type had occurred at Matagorda Bay. The same spies, that had originally reported Aury's strength at Matagorda to be of thirteen vessels, were now reporting that same amount of ships to have been destroyed.

The story becomes even more mysterious as the Spanish refuse to claim the results of the battle to have come of their hands.

Jean Epperson and I discussed this. It would have been just what the Spanish rulers in Spain would have wanted to hear, that their navy had finally struck back at the French privateers and did so in a big way. Ms. Epperson reasoned that the Spanish may have been lying.

Several years ago, I brought the same naval battle to Robert Vogel, another top-notch Laffite researcher. Mr. Vogel thought the local Indian tribes may have been responsible for the carnage. The Carancawas were involved in more than one skirmish with the forces of Aury and Laffite. And the Comanches were known to do their vacation-raiding on the coast.

And even then is the matter of the spies reporting all vessels being wrecked or destroyed. If so, how was Aury able to not only sail back to Galveston to quarrel with Laffite but also end up privateering on the east coast of Florida? And why were the Spanish spies, camped out about the nearby San Antonio river, why were they unable to gain enough approach to observe who was attacking whom? If it were a battle of vessels, the noise would have carried across the bay:

This brings up one other theory. Mutiny. Ms. Epperson reported that Aury had already survived one mutiny on Sept. 7, 1816. In that incident, Aury himself was shot by a mutineer, while anchored at Snake Island, or Galveston. And yet, for numerous vessels to have been sunk, that is a mutiny getting well out of control. This writer tends to believe the Spanish spies may have exaggerated the amount of sunken ships or vessels. And the same spies would have surely known an Indian arrow if they found any. And it seems highly unlikely that Laffite would have trailed Aury to Matagorda and then attacked and then allowed Aury to sail back into his harbour at Galveston, just to get into a verbal melee'.

All of the above given, I must admit that my first visualization of Luis Aury was in error. I placed him as more of a Dominique Youx type. Boisterous, bombastic, somewhat comically arrogant and middle-aged. Instead, he was young, highly energetic, independent, very determined or stubborn (take your pick) and probably most important for the enterprising privateer, very charismatic. Luckily for the Laffite Bros., Reyna Beluche and others, he decided on Florida and the Caribbean as his plundering grounds, rather than the Gulf of Mexico.

At this point, I would like to introduce the research Ms. Litrico had very effectively produced. This is the conclusion of a series on Luis Aury originally published in the Fall 1985 and Winter 1985-86 issues of *Amelia Now*.

Before entering the port of Fernandina, Aury Welcomed Sir Gregor MacGregor aboard his flagship, Mexican Congress. MacGregor was the Scottish mercenary financed by U. S. business firms who, with his American recruits, had captured Fort San Carlos and taken over control of Amelia Island from the Spanish. When no more men, money or munitions were supplied by his U.S. backers, MacGregor decided to leave. He turned over authority to Ruggles Hubbard, former High Sheriff of New York, and Jared

Irwin, a former U.S. Congressman from Pennsylvania. Largely through a fluke, a defense mounted by Hubbard and Irwin repelled the Spanish counterattack in the Battle of Amelia on September 13, 1817. Hubbard and Irwin were out of funds, and MacGregor's recruits, left on the island, were unpaid.

Fully informed and forewarned by MacGregor, Aury sailed into the port of Fernandina on September 17, 1817, accompanied by two privateers and a prize valued at \$60,000. He was warmly welcomed by Hubbard, who immediately appealed for financial aid. Aury refused unless he could be supreme commander of both civil and military affairs, as he had been in Galveston. Hubbard and Irwin protested so strongly that Aury threatened to leave the island. A compromise was reached: Hubbard would be civil governor of Amelia and Aury would be commander-in-chief of military and naval forces with Irwin as his adjutant general. The flag of the Mexican Republic would fly, and Aury would take care of all back pay due to MacGregor's men. Thus, with booming cannon, forces standing at attention and a flowery proclamation from Aury and Hubbard, Amelia Island was "annexed" to the Mexican Republic on September 21, 1817.

The more respectable inhabitants of Fernandina had fled the island now taken over by an international mixture of men ostensibly supporting South American patriots but actually more motivated to plundering and privateering. There were American, English, Irish and French adventurers, together with Aury's well-trained crews from Galveston, including 130 mulattoes known as "Aury's blacks." Trouble erupted from the start between Hubbard and the Americans and Aury and his blacks who were garrisoned with whites. Thus, racism was one weapon in the power struggle. The population divided into the "American party" headed by Hubbard and the "French party" headed by Aury. The situation was one of almost open warfare when Hubbard fell ill with fever. With a body of armed mulattoes, Aury stormed Hubbard's quarters and forced him to make concessions, whereupon Hubbard soon died.

One week later, 30 British ex-officers arrived, seeking to join MacGregor in the fight for South American independence. Aury treated them to a banquet before announcing that he had more officers that he could use, many of whom had to do duty in the ranks. Most of the British officers departed. The few remaining tried to organize a party of their own and acquired some defectors of the American party, which served to help Aury. Amidst the confusion, Aury saw his opportunity.

On November 5, 1817, he lined his privateers along the waterfront with their guns trained upon Fernandina, declared himself the supreme civil and military authority and imposed martial law for ten days.

Unbeknownst to Aury, President Monroe decided to invoke a secret act passed by Congress in 1811 as a preliminary to the War of 1812. The act empowered the President to expel by force any foreign power occupying Spanish Florida. At Monroe's direction, the U.S War and Navy Department issued orders in mid-November for the occupation of Amelia Island. Meanwhile, Aury's privateering establishment prospered. On November 20th, the agent of Lloyd's in Savannah reported that prize goods valued at a half million dollars had been sold in Fernandina.

During this time, a Venezuelan privateer, America Libre, brought to Fernandina two men quite influential in Aury's life. One was Vicente Pazos Silva, a former newspaper editor from Buenos Aires. Pazos served Aury, who was French, by writing his documents, proclamations and letters in correct if somewhat high-flown Spanish. He published, also in Spanish, what was probably the first newspaper published in Florida outside of St. Augustine. Of even more influence and assistance to Aury was Dr. Pedro Gaul, a native of Caracas who had spent many years on two continents enlisting support of South American independence. Teaching patience and wisdom, Gaul rekindled Aury's desire to free his adopted country of

New Granada (modern Colombia). Gaul proposed that Simon Bolivar and Admiral Luis Brion, Aury's arch enemy, would free Venezuela and Aury would free New Granada after first liberating the Isthmus of Panama.

Aury knew that something must be done to create the impression of a legitimate government on Amelia Island, so he called a meeting of his officers and proposed holding an election of members to constitute a legislature. Every free inhabitant of 15 days residence could vote after subscribing to an oath of allegiance.

The Assembly of Representatives met on December 1st and Irwin was elected President. To frame a republican constitution, a committee was appointed composed of Dr. Gaul, Vicente Pazos, and one M. Minder. The constitution never became operative because the intention of U.S. occupation became known at Amelia. After a momentary impulse to resist, Aury considered abandoning the island but could not because of the condition of his vessels.

After drafting with his "legislators" a preposterous document of protest to be delivered to President Monroe, Aury surrendered to the forces led by Captain J. D. Henley and Major James Bankhead on December 23rd, 1817. The American flag replaced the Mexican flag, and the U.S. controlled the island in trust for Spain.

Bankhead immediately loaded all blacks aboard one of Aury's ships and sent them off, probably to Santo Domingo. White troops, placed under strict surveillance, and white officers at large on parole, stayed almost a month after the surrender. Aury remained over two months as an unwelcome guest.

After leaving Fernandina in early 1818, Luis Aury endured another three and a half years of frustration in his efforts to help free his adopted country of New Granada from Spain. [ed: For space reasons, this conclusion will leave out all the political intrigues and deal only with several engagements which exemplify the determination and inventiveness of Luis Aury.]

He set up a base of operations on the Caribbean island of Old Providence, which adjoined a small island (Santa Catalina) containing ruins of a Spanish fort. Though his first settlement was leveled by a hurricane and further plagued by famine, mutiny and fever, Aury persevered and rebuilt. In time, Old Providence had substantial houses, a church, a hospital and shops along with the restored fort.

Described as "a terror to the Spanish at sea," Aury listened to his officers on any land engagement, as most of them were trained in Napoleon's battalions.

Banned by Brion from the Colombia coast, Aury turned to Central America's fight for liberation. His squadron captured a coastal lookout from which a messenger escaped by a hidden waterway. Aury knew there must be an important settlement inland. He found the opening of the Rio Dulce, concealed by rocky palisades and deep forests. For two days he prepared small rowboats for 140 men and left 100 men to guard his seagoing vessels. All one day and one night they rowed upriver, arriving at dawn at the Spanish fort of San Felipe on Lake Izabal. Though the Spaniards were forewarned and forearmed, Aury's men captured the fort and seized great wealth in cash and indigo. Aury estimated his personal profit in the venture at \$200,000.

Aury took a squadron of 14 armed vessels to attack the fortified city of Trujillo on the coast of Honduras. While most vessels kept up a steady fire directly on the target, others went down the beach and unloaded

400 men and 15 horses. They advanced in classic Napoleonic style, pushing royalists back, trench by trench, in an attempt to encircle the fortified town and concentrate the attack on the rear. The plan almost worked, but Aury's men had to retreat, repair vessels and re-embark, leaving horses behind.

Aury then approached Omoa, a town on the coast of Honduras more strongly fortified than Trujillo. It stood on the flank of a mountain protected on the beach side by a high-walled fortress with drawbridges over a moat. Seven days of frontal attack proved fruitless.

On the advice of his officers, Aury ordered two 18-pound cannons, each weighing two tons, removed from shipboard and hauled up an "unscalable" mountain to an unfortified position directly overlooking the fortress. From this advantageous height, victory was fairly well-assured. But before the demolition began, a supply vessel arrived with a message. It was the unofficial word that Aury was finally to get a commission from the vice president of Colombia, his friend Francisco Zea, to act on the Granadine (Colombia) coast as "admiral of the navy and general-in--chief- of the armies." So elated was Aury that he abandoned the cannons left sitting on the mountain and hastily embarked for his base on Old Providence.

After waiting nearly two months, Aury learned that the official messenger was killed and his commission was lost. Zea meanwhile had been criticized by Simon Bolivar for assuming too much authority. Aury appealed to the Colombian military officer, General Montilla, who recommended his services to admiral Brion. Brion again refused him. Aury then traveled for weeks by canoe and muleback into the interior of Bogota, Colombia, to appeal directly to Simon Bolivar. Weary of battle and all the disputes, Bolivar Banished Aury from the waters of Colombia altogether.

As our story ends, Brion was back in his hometown of Curacao - penniless, alone with his debts, insane and dying. Aury, who always had plenty of money from his privateering, resided on Old Providence, writing out in French a long diatribe to the Colombian congress detailing the many injustices done to him by Luis Brion.

On August 30, 1821, Luis Aury died on Old Providence. This commodore who would be a general died as a result of being thrown from a horse. He was about 33 years old.

The Luis Aury series was based on several sources, primarily, "Commodore Aury" by Stanley Kaye, published in the Louisiana Historical Quarterly in 1941\_.