



The Laffite Society Chronicles

Volume XIX Number 1
February 2013

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 6:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month, except December, at the Meridian Retirement Community, 23rd Street just off Seawall Boulevard.

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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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLES	PAGE
Editor's Page by Dan Cote	1
President's Page by Larry Porter	2
Playbill Annual Party skit	3
Playbill Footnotes	4
1st Annual Laffite Seminar	5
Monthly Programs for 2013 by Jack Watson	6
Buccaneer by Pam Keyes	7
Campeche on Galveston Island by Jean Epperson	10
Laffite Society Minutes (July 2012 thru November 2012) by Carolyn Peterson	11
Laffite Society Christmas Party Photos by David Roberts.....	23

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Editor's Page

Dan Cote
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Observations on Articles in This Issue

Our very able president, Larry Porter, not only reviews past accomplishments but also presents the playbill for the outstanding Annual Party program...read...enjoy. He also presents the agenda for the 1st Annual Laffite Seminar...read...plan to attend.

Jack Watson, our very capable program director (his official title is First Vice President), has submitted a piece, *Monthly Programs* that gives us a preview of coming attractions. Society activities are strengthened by his efforts.

Pam Keyes in "Buccaneer" highlights the 1958 Yul Brynner movie "Buccaneer". Bet you didn't know some of the historical facts, broadened Hollywood style. You will after reading the article.

"Campeche on Galveston Island "is a typical Jean Epperson description of how things are.

Carolyn Peterson, the Society's Recording Secretary, describes accurately but with style the meetings of the Society from July to December 2012. If you want to know what you missed by not being there or want to refresh meeting ideas you heard there, her minutes will give you guidance.

Finally, Dave Roberts has documented some of the persona at the Annual Party.

Material Submission Notes

As an absolute last resort the editor will accept material that must be scanned or is in PDF. He prefers WORD or text documents with only **VERY ELEMENTAL** formatting: tabbing is preferred to spacing. Photos and drawings presented in .jpg or related formats are also preferred.

The Laffite Yahoo Group

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

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

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

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

Presidents Page

Larry Porter

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The year 2012 is closing fast with another successful, sazerac soaked Christmas Banquet under our belts. Let us hope the Mayan Calendar Society folks are wrong and we will all be around for 2013.

Our annual Christmas Banquet, “Pistols and Pearls” was filled with fun and hi-jinx beautifully done by Lynette Haaga and a whole host of volunteers. The program featured an original play “Audrey, Lacie, and John A” written by our own Dale Olson. The story was woven around a series of hundreds of letters exchanged between the principle players, Audrey(Helen Mooty), Lacie(Betty Connor) and John A(Larry Porter), concerning the nefarious Laffite Journals. The dialog proved, once again, that fact can be stranger than fiction! It was a hoot! The play was brilliantly written by Dale, professionally directed by Ed Jamison, and masterfully narrated by Jeff Modzelewski- who reminds us that we will miss him when he is gone. The Playbill is included here to give you the cast and credits. If you could not make it, do plan to attend next year. You will be glad you did.

The coming year is going to be big for our group. Plans are underway to sponsor the 1st Annual Laffite Seminar on March 8-9th, at Texas A&M University Galveston. The preliminary program schedule is included in this chronicle for your review. Our hope is to grow this seminar into a nationally recognized historical event for the Laffite story. We will need ALL HANDS on deck to make this a success, so, please make plans now to attend and bring your friends who may have an interest in the history and mystery of Laffite and Galveston Island.

Jack Watson continues to deliver a stellar line up of programs for 2013, see the preview of coming attractions in the chronicle. Ginny Roberts and Lynette Haaga promise a delicious meal, and our celebrity bar tender, Ed Connor will not let your glass go dry. So, please mark your calendars (not the expired Mayan one) for the 2nd Tuesday evening of each month, 6pm, to be at the Meridian. And, bring a friend!

New field trips are being discussed and hopefully one will take us “Back to Barataria”. Stay tuned.

Also, remember, this is our chronicle and we are a serious historical study group. I invite all members to submit articles and information that will continue to build the body of knowledge of the Laffite story.

Thanks to all our officers, directors, advisors and members for their support and encouragement.

The Laffite Players Playbill:



The Laffite Society's Annual Holiday Banquet: An Evening of Pistols and Pearls ~

December 9, 2012
The Trolley Station Ballroom, 2021 The Strand, Galveston

Cocktails at 6:00 ~ Dinner at 7:15

Greeting
★

Introductions by Jack Watson
★

Corsair's Toast by Jeff Modzelewski and Guests:
....He left a Corsair's name to other times,
Linked with one virtue and a thousand crimes...*Lord Byron*

Our Program:

"The Story of Lacie, Audrey and John A."

Featuring: Betty Connor, Helen Mooty, Larry Porter and
Jeff Modzelewski
★

Special thanks are given to the Banquet Committee members and volunteers: Chairperson - Lynette Haaga, Mike and Diane Wonio, Anne Forester, Root Choyce, Dorothy Karlanovic, Jan Porter, Diane Olson, Dave and Ginny Roberts, Lodie Massey, Jim Nonus, and Carolyn Peterson
★

We are grateful to the following for their contributions tonight:

Cathy Conlon Townsend of Galveston Connections
Rob Peterson, for mixing up Sazaracs and memories

And.....Jean and Pierre Laffite for providing just enough facts to make it fascinating, and more than enough secrets to make it challenging.



Playbill

The Trolley Station Theatre

Presents

"Audrey, Lacie, and John A."

Footnotes to the presentation:

**THE LAFFITE SOCIETY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BANQUET
THE TROLLEY STATION BALLROOM
2021 THE STRAND GALVESTON, TEXAS
DECEMBER 9, 2012**

*Within the complex, convoluted tale of Jean and Pierre Laffite, the story of Audrey Lloyd, Lacie Laffite, and John Andrecheyne Laffite and the Laffite Journals is perhaps the strangest; a fraud, to be sure, but one which has confounded Laffite scholars for nearly 60 years. In our presentation this evening, all dialog is verbatim from letters between the three principals while other information is from **The Laffite Society Chronicles**.*

OUR NARRATOR IS MR. JEFF MODZELEWSKI
MRS. AUDREY LLOYD IS PLAYED BY MS. HELEN MOOTY
MRS. LACIE LAFFITE IS PLAYED BY MS. BETTY CONNER
MR. JOHN A. LAFFITE IS PLAYED BY MR. LARRY PORTER
SOUND BY MR. GEORGE LEE
DIRECTED BY MR. ED JAMISON
SCRIPT BY MR. R. DALE OLSON
THE TIME FRAME IS 1966 TO 1978

NITIE, NITIE !!!

THE REAL PRINCIPALS

Audrey Lloyd c 1966



Lacie Laffite June 6, 1953



*John Andrecheyne Laffite
c 1966*



1st Annual Laffite Seminar March 8- 9th, 2013
Texas A&M University at Galveston
Pelican Island Campus, Ocean and Coastal Sciences Bldg., Rm 142

March 8th, Friday: Trolley Station

6pm Welcome party, open bar and hors d'oeuvres. Trolley Station lobby, 2021 Strand (21st and Strand).

Entertaining skits and music. Celebrity bar tender: Ed Conner

March 9th, Saturday: TAMU OCSB

- 8am-9am Registration, coffee & pastries, sponsor/partner display tables
Greetings: L Porter, President, Laffite Society, and TAMUG representative
- 9 – 9:45am Session #1: Laffite 101, Jeff Modzelewski: Introducer- Lynette Haaga
Infomercial: The Laffite Society- Ed Jamison
- 10 -10:45am Session #2: Laffite at the Battle of New Orleans, Dr. Gene Smith, TCU: Introducer- L Porter
Infomercial: GHS Dwayne Jones, GHF
- 11 – 11:45am Session #3: Laffite in Galveston, Dale Olson: Introducer- Ginny Roberts
Infomercial: TAMUG Laffite Archives- Natalie Wiest
- 12 -1:30pm Buffet lunch, TAMUG library
- 1:45 – 2:30pm Session#4: Laffite's Women- Betty Connor, Helen Mooty (Jane Long), Introducer- Linda Kuhn
Infomercial: TBD
- 2:45 – 3:30pm Session#5: The Mysteries of Laffite- Ensemble, introduced by Kathy Modzelewski
- The treasure- Jack Watson
 - The Journal- Rob Peterson
 - The death- Jeff Modzelewski
- Infomercial: Local resources-Sam Houston Regional Library, Rosenberg Library
- 4pm – 5:30pm Reception, wine and cheese, book signing, sponsor/partner display tables
- 7pm: Dinner arranged for group in local restaurant, cost born by each person

Admission for the seminar is \$50 per person which includes welcoming party and seminar with morning coffee and pastries, lunch, and wine and cheese reception. Cash, checks (payable to the Laffite Society, mail: P.O. Box 1325, Galveston, Texas, 77553), or money order. For more information contact laffitesociety@gmail.com

Monthly Programs for 2013

Jack Watson

First Vice President

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First of all, thanks to all of you who have participated in our programs for 2012. Members Betty Conner, Jean Epperson, Ed Jamison, Helen Mooty, Rob Peterson, Sheldon Kindall, and Mike Wonio, all gave informative and entertaining talks. For those members who have never presented a program, let me encourage you to consider it. Finding a subject that interests you, learning all about it, and then passing the story and knowledge on to the rest of us is a worthy project and we are all the better for it. After all, we are a historical study group. Let's get studying!!

Here is what's planned for 2013-

In January, member Linda Kuhn has a very interesting subject to present to us. Linda will give us a review of the modern technology Geographic Informative Systems (GIS), and how it can be used to help evaluate whether the structure at 14th and Harborside is really the site of Laffite's home on the island in the early nineteenth century.

For February we have a return guest in Kirk Clark. Kirk gave us a map presentation in the Spring of 2010, that was very well received by our membership. He will do a follow up with a power point presentation and even more maps. Kirk Clark is a cartographer and if you like maps like I do, you won't want to miss this. His subject will be the topography of Galveston and its Bays two hundred years ago and how it has become what it is today.

In March, former member Andrew Hall will address the Laffite Society. I met Andy at a book signing for his new book The Galveston Houston Packet, Steamboats on Buffalo Bayou. He hasn't decided on a subject for his talk, but after reading his book I would lobby for a book review. Nineteenth century transportation in Southeast Texas is a fascinating story. Today we take a highway to go somewhere. Back then traveling across the land was dangerous and difficult so bayous and rivers were the major means of travel and commerce.

The rest of 2013 is open for monthly programs. I am working with the Houston Maritime Museum for a date. If any of you would consider doing a program, or bringing a presentation to us from outside the Laffite Society, be sure to call me on it. I invite every member to participate.

Buccaneer

Pam Keyes
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Most people are familiar with Jean Laffite thanks to the occasional televised showings of the 1938 and 1958 films "The Buccaneer" on Turner Classic Movies. Although some prefer the original black and white version with Fredric March, this presentation will tell about the 1958 color remake, the great Cecil B. DeMille's last film.

With a toupee-wearing, mustachioed Yul Brynner in the lead role, "The Buccaneer" was a major production of its time, Paramount Studio's Christmas 1958 moneymaker. DeMille supervised its production before his death in early 1959. His son-in-law, Anthony Quinn, was the director. Henry Wilcoxon was producer.

Concentrating on the time period between Sept. 1814 and January 1815, the Buccaneer is the story of Jean Laffite and the Battle of New Orleans, including the British bribe to Laffite, Patterson's raid on Barataria, and the aid of the Baratarians to Gen. Andrew Jackson's troops. The introduction is by DeMille with a map showing the area Laffite controlled. It ends after the battle, with Laffite sailing away to an unnamed destination, no mention of Galveston is made.

Historically, the basic facts are correct in the movie, with a hefty dose of theatrical invention thrown in: Jean Laffite was not on the battlefield on Jan. 8, 1815, so he didn't locate the British in the fog for Jackson's riflemen; brother Pierre Laffite is omitted entirely, like he'd never existed; there was no sunken American ship called the Corinthian with a cabin boy sole survivor, nor was there a romance with a governor's gorgeous blonde daughter. All of that was added with DeMille's paintbrush to make Laffite's already flamboyant story even more dramatic.

The film was a virtual straight remake with only a slightly altered script from DeMille's 1938 highly successful film of the same name featuring a curly-haired jovial March in the lead role. The main differences between the two movies are the Dutch girl from the plundered American ship is turned into a rescued cabin boy, and pirate vixen Bonnie Brown is added for a romance angle. Also, Jean Laffite does not have a talkative pet white cockatoo in the remake. The remake was filmed in Technicolor, all the better to show off Laffite's tight fitting, richly made wardrobe created by famed designer Ralph Jester.

The '58 movie had the biggest cast of all the films to come from Hollywood that year, with five stars, 55 featured players, 100 bit players and 12,000 extras. It was the largest picture to be made at Paramount since DeMille's "The Ten Commandments" in 1955. Brynner and Charlton Heston, who played Gen. Jackson, were re-teamed from their Ten Commandments roles as Pharaoh and Moses, respectively. Also starring in The Buccaneer were Charles Boyer as Dominique You, Inger Stevens as Annette Claiborne, and Claire Bloom as Bonnie Brown. Even Lorne Greene of later "Bonanza" fame had a part in the film, playing an agitated Creole businessman named Mercier.

Because production went overtime, the Buccaneer made Brynner the highest paid film star of the time. When he began his starring role on Sept. 30, 1957, the deal called for Yul to receive \$20,000 a week over the ten-week period initially planned for completion of the movie. However, Brynner's crafty agent inserted a tricky little double indemnity clause. Should the film run past the prescribed time, it was agreed Brynner would receive double the sum of \$40,000 each week thereafter until the picture was finished.

The spectacular nature of the Laffite story required a succession of huge outdoor sets and hundreds of specially costumed extras, which dragged filming far past the original schedule.

Brynnner wound up receiving more than half a million dollars, or the equivalent of nearly \$4 million today, for his part in the *Buccaneer*. Playing Laffite made Yul quite a wealthy man.

By comparison with modern-day actors' fees, Brynnner was short-changed, though: Johnny Depp reportedly took home \$61 million for each of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies.

A little-known fact today is that the 1958 "*Buccaneer*" was almost a musical. (Imagine Laffite and Jackson singing at each other during the Battle of New Orleans!) Because Brynnner had won the 1957 Academy Award for Best Actor for his signature role as the king of Siam in the musical "*The King and I*" in 1957, DeMille initially hoped to repeat that success by making the Laffite film a musical, also. However, after some discussion it was decided just to stick with the historical romance format and eschew most of the songs.

Some touches of the musical remained in the film: Inger Stevens playing Annette Claiborne did sing the ballad "Barbara Allen" to Charlton Heston's Andrew Jackson, and Brynnner sang a French sea chantey while accompanying himself on a seven-stringed guitar as the visiting British officers looked on in dismay. Brynnner did his own arrangement of the old French traditional song "Alle L'eau" and added a touch of comedy to the presentation by having Dominique You (Charles Boyer) and another pirate nearby howl like dogs while he sings.

The highly talented composer Elmer Bernstein was chosen for the stirring soundtrack accompaniment; Bernstein later was known for his soundtracks for "*To Kill a Mockingbird*," "*The Magnificent Seven*" and "*True Grit*."

Even though it wasn't a musical, the actors still needed to learn choreography for the Victory Ball dances celebrating the winning of the Battle of New Orleans, held soon after the 8th of January 1815.

When Quinn and Wilcoxon planned their production under DeMille's supervision, they felt it was highly appropriate to show Laffite dancing in the ballroom as well as fighting on the battle lines and carrying out the hazardous business of privateering on the high seas. In real life, Laffite was said to be an able dancer and a great favorite with the ladies at the Victory Ball. So Brynnner and Stevens learned how to do both the Virginia Reel and a waltz based on a peasant dance, the Landler, both of which were much in vogue throughout the South at the time of Laffite.

Brynnner had shaved his head bald for the *King and I* and had maintained the baldness, so for the *Buccaneer* he wore a Napoleonic styled dark brown wig. Oddly, the wig was almost a bright red and some still shots show Brynnner in a fiery copper wig, but DeMille fortunately changed his mind before production started. Where he got the idea Laffite might have been a carrot top is anyone's guess.

New Orleans welcomed the film with open arms. The premiere of the \$5 million production was held Dec. 11, 1958, at New Orleans' Saenger Theatre on Canal Street.

Mayor deLesseps S. Morrison declared the day "Jean Laffite Day" in honor of the event, with the following proclamation:

"Whereas in New Orleans' uniquely great cultural history the name of Jean Lafitte is held in special reverence by those who appreciate our present attainments, and who are active in promulgating our aims and aspirations for tomorrow, and

Whereas Cecil Blount DeMille has paid tribute to Jean Lafitte through his latest motion picture presentation *The Buccaneer*.

Now, therefore, I, deLesseps S. Morrison, mayor of the City of New Orleans, do hereby proclaim Thursday, December 11th, 1958, Jean Lafitte Day in New Orleans.”

Celebrities attending the premiere included DeMille, Stevens, Wilcoxon and Quinn. Brynner originally had planned to be there also, but the untimely death of Tyrone Power from a heart attack made it necessary for Brynner to fly to Spain to complete Power’s film “Solomon and Sheba.” Heston was filming in Rome and unable to get away.

Controversy briefly clouded the Buccaneer’s premiere, as upon his arrival in the Crescent City, DeMille was immediately slapped with a threatened lawsuit alleging slander against the William C.C. Claiborne family from a descendant of the city’s first American governor, Henri de Balthier Claiborne, a great-grandson.

Claiborne claimed the second Buccaneer film misrepresented the governor’s family by introducing a fictional romance between Laffite and one of the governor’s daughters.

DeMille shrugged off the protest, saying the treatment of the love story in no way affronted the family.

“Anyway,” he added, “the romance is not the central theme of the picture. But Laffite had a way with women, so it’s an important part of his character. The girl could have been anybody, but we had to telescope time and characters in the film treatment.”

“Buccaneer” producer Wilcoxon said he believed Brynner’s darkly sullen version of Laffite most closely matched the historical figure. “I would say his portrayal more nearly fits the personality that historical accounts give Laffite than that of Fredric March of a few years back. Brynner is a pirate who would be a gentleman; March was a gentleman who would be a pirate.”

Speaking before the Young Men’s Business Club of New Orleans the day of the ’58 premiere, DeMille said the city should be proud of Laffite.

“He was a rogue and a hero, and his name was linked with a thousand crimes. But he had a spark that kindled the imagination of the world,” he said. “I do not wish to say that Laffite won the Battle of New Orleans, but we can ask ourselves ‘would we have won the battle if he had been on the other side?’”

Campeche on Galveston Island

Jean L. Epperson
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Why was Jean Laffite's corsair base on Galveston Island named Campeche in 1817 since there existed an old, well known Mexican port on the lower gulf of Mexico called Campeche?

The New Orleans associates chose the name for the Galveston base when the Mexican Viceroy issued a proclamation on July 12, 1817 barring coasting trade from all Gulf ports except Tampico and Campeche.¹

The New Orleans Associates were never a formal organization and had a fluid membership of businessmen who contrived to finance and operate privateering and corsair operations for profit. The brothers Laffite were members of this group along with Abner Duncan, Francois Dupuis, John K. West, Edward Livingston, Auguste Davezac, John R. Grymes, Vincent Nolte, Bartholome Lafon and others.

William Bollert, a British writer and naturalist was in Texas from 1842 thru 1844 and first mentioned the name of the settlement Campeche in his memoirs.² Bollert apparently failed to see the irony or amusing aspects of the name or he was not privileged to its historical background.

¹ Stanley Faye, *Privateers of the Gulf*. (Hemphill TX. Dogwood Press, 2001), 159.

² W. Eugene Hollon, editor. *William Bollaert's Texas*. (Norman, Oklahoma, Press, 1956) 16.

Laffite Society Minutes

Submitted by Carolyn Peterson
Corresponding/Recording Secretary
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Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Meridian Retirement Center

Board Members Present: FVP Jack Watson, SVP Kathy Modzelewski, TVP Ginny Roberts Secretary, Carolyn Peterson, Technology Director Rob Peterson, Archivist Dorothy Karolanovic, Treasurer Jeff Modzelewski, Parliamentarian Diane Olson. Publicity Director Dave Roberts, Editor Dan Cote

Board Members Absent: President Larry Porter, Coordinator of Research Pam Keyes

Advisory Board Present: Jean Epperson, Jeff Modzelewski, Kathy Modzelewski, Dale Olson

Advisory Board Absent: Pam Keyes, Dr. Reginald Wilson, Robert Vogel

Past President Ed Jamison called the meeting to order at 6:35PM. He welcomed visitors: Paula Reeg, Tommy and Polly Howard from the Dallas area. He said that President Larry Porter would be out of town for the next two months and that he would be filling in for him. Ed introduced Tom Linton and said that Tom's new book (How The Parks of Galveston County Got Their Names) is in print and several book signings were announced. Tom said that he dedicated the book to Helen Mooty for all the help she has given him in his research.

The latest edition of the Chronicles was available for pickup.

Ed reminded everyone to contribute to the refreshment kitty and that there was a signup sheet for food donations for the coming months' meetings.

Program Speaker – Ed Jamison

Topic – The 1958 version of the "Buccaneer"

Most people have been introduced to Jean Laffite by the showing of the 1938 and 1958 versions of the movie "The Buccaneer" on Turner Classic Movies. This presentation was prepared by Pam Keyes and mainly concentrates on the 1958 version created by Cecile B. DeMille (his last movie project). The movie was Paramount's big Christmas hit making a lot of money, DeMille's son-in-law, Anthony Quinn, was the director and also acted in the 1938 production. The time period covered in the movie was from September, 1814 to January, 1815, and portrays Laffite and the Baratarians during the Battle of Orleans, the British attempt to bribe Laffite, Patterson's raid on Baratavia, the aid given to General Jackson, and ends with Laffite sailing away. Pam says that the movie is pretty factual with a heavy dose of theatrical invention thrown in (Jean Laffite was not on the battlefield locating the British for the American troops to fire on and Pierre was not there at all because Jean did not have a brother in this movie). There were other contrivances to make Laffite appear exciting and exotic. The 1958 film is a virtual remake of the 1938 movie because it was so successful. A few minor changes were made in the script and characters, but the big difference was that the 1958 movie was in Technicolor which according to Ed made it all the better to show off Yul Brynner's tight fitting pants. Pam owned the vest that was worn by Yul Brynner and she sold it to Joyce McClean for her Pirates! Legend of the Gulf Coast Museum. The movie had a much larger cast

than the 1938 version with five stars, 55 featured players, 100 bit parts, and 12000 extras. This film made Brynner a very rich man because of the time overrun. His pay ended up being a half a million -- about \$4 million today. Interestingly, the film was almost a musical, but it was decided to keep it as a historical romance. It premiered with great fanfare in New Orleans in December 1958 and was a huge success. There was a cloud over the premier, though, because DeMille was slapped with a lawsuit by a descendant of Gov. Claiborne saying that DeMille had slandered his family (the romance between Laffite and one of the governor's daughters). Nothing much happened with this lawsuit. Ed says that Brynner's interpretation of the Laffite personality more closely matches the descriptions of Laffite than Frederick March's performance does. It was said that Brynner was a pirate that was also a gentleman and that March was a gentleman that would be a pirate. Ed ended by saying that Laffite did not win the Battle of New Orleans, but would we have won if he were on the other side?

Program Speaker – Helen Mooty

Topic – Four Feisty Women of East Texas

Helen is a architectural historian and director of the Galveston County Museum. She began by saying that she was going to concentrate on the time period of the Civil War. First she introduced us to Jane Long known as the Mother of Texas because Long dedicated her life to freeing Texas. Helen, as Jane, said that young women were encouraged to learn how to cross stitch samplers and hers read - "Obedient Women Are Never Remembered In History". Jane said that during the first part of her married life she lived as an obedient spouse. In 1821 James left her to suffer and survive one of the coldest winters with just her two daughters and her servant girl. In spring of 1822 she learned that James Long had been killed and the family left Bolivar and the brutal Gulf Coast. Later she was given a Spanish Land Grant and opened a boarding house in Brazoria. During this period the Mexican government was taking away rights. She entertained their dignitaries at her tavern while stashing away weapons, ammunition, and documents for the Texas freedom fighters. As the Mexican army pushed forward, the populace moved to the east to escape towards the United States in what is known as the "Runaway Scrape". Jane got as far as Bolivar when she found out about the Texans' victory at San Jacinto. Upon her return she found her property destroyed so she moved to Richmond laying out a plantation and opening another boarding house. Then the Civil War came and she made all her fabrics and laces from her cotton crop. Most of her crop was smuggled to Europe and sold to fund the war effort. Her grandson, James Edward Winston fought at Shiloh.

Our second feisty woman is Margaret (Peggy) McCormick who owned the farm upon which the Battle of San Jacinto took place. She was born in Ireland in 1788 and came to Texas with her husband, Arthur. They set a farm and cattle ranch on the banks of the San Jacinto River. Arthur drowned in Buffalo Bayou in 1824, but Peggy and her sons became quite successful. In 1836 with the Mexican army advancing, the family was forced to join the Runaway Scrape. After the battle Peggy returned to find her property littered with the remains of the dead from both sides. She approached both Santa Ana and Sam Houston about taking care of their dead, but they refused her so it was left to Peggy and her sons to dispose of the all dead. During the 1840's and 1850's she had one of the largest herds in Harris County. Peggy was a smart woman, but unfortunately, never learned to read. Unscrupulous land surveyors cheated her out of her land, but fortunately she died before she could find out about it. The third woman is Kate McGill Dorman who with her husband, Arthur, owned the Catfish Hotel in Sabine Pass. Arthur was killed in a steamboat accident in 1859. In 1860 she married Capt. John Dorman. In 1962 Sabine was hit hard by a yellow fever epidemic that ravaged the general populace and the Confederate forces stationed there. Kate turned her hotel into a hospital for these soldiers. Most Union soldiers were afraid to come ashore, but one patrol stole her horse and carriage to mount their howitzer and this thoroughly enraged her. She gave them a good

tongue-lashing and the Federals demanded an apology saying that they would burn her hotel if she didn't. Well, they didn't burn the hotel; they just burned a quarter of the town. In 1863 the war returned to Sabine and the Federals were finally dispatched by Dick Dowling and his Irishmen with Kate and a neighbor providing food and drink for the Confederates using the same horse and carriage mentioned above.

The last feisty woman is Obedience Smith. She followed her son (Col. Benjamin Ford Smith, Adjutant to General Sam Houston) to Texas just weeks before the signing of the Texas declaration of Independence. Obedience was later given a land grant from the Republic of Texas and she chose 3,368 acres (5.26 square miles) close to downtown Houston. That land now includes River Oaks. In 1841 she founded the First Baptist Church and was involved with several philanthropic organizations. Her eleven children include judges and senators - a very successful family. Her name was Obedience, but look how she is remembered in history now.

.Miscellaneous

Jack Watson mentioned that he and Helen were doing presentations for OLLI next Tuesday at 1:30pm. His will be about Laffite's stay on Galveston and Helen will speak about Jane Long.

Natalie Wiest said that most of the Laffite publications are now online and that she is looking for some people to help index. She proposed the next Tuesday at 2:00pm to meet for an orientation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM..

Tuesday, August 14, 2012

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Board Members Present: FVP Jack Watson, SVP Kathy Modzelewski, TVP Ginny Roberts Secretary, Carolyn Peterson, Technology Director Rob Peterson, Archivist Dorothy Karolanovic, Treasurer Jeff Modzelewski, Parliamentarian Diane Olson. Publicity Director Dave Roberts, Editor Dan Cote

Board Members Absent: President Larry Porter, Coordinator of Research Pam Keyes

Advisory Board Present: Jean Epperson, Jeff Modzelewski, Kathy Modzelewski, Dale Olson

Advisory Board Absent: Pam Keyes, Dr. Reginald Wilson, Robert Vogel

First Vice President Jack Watson called the meeting to order at 6:35PM. He welcomed visitor Eugene Aubrey, saying that his new book is now being published called "Born On The Island" containing artistic drawings of several pieces of real estate on the island. Visitor Root Choyce was also recognized as well as new members Louie and Paula Reed. Jack reminded everyone about the sign up sheet for food donations and thanked Betty Connor and Carolyn Peterson for contributing this month. Ed Connor was applauded for his excellent bartending. Jack updated the group on the TAMU archive project saying that the Chronicles and the Laffite Study Group publications are now available online. If you have any problems accessing these, contact Jack, Dorothy Karolanovic, or Natalie Wiest. He said that the boxes of miscellaneous articles and other Laffite related items will not be available online, but can be used by researchers at the TAMU-Galveston library.

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Program Speaker – Rob Peterson Topic – The Boutte Family - Real Estate Owners in South Louisiana

Rob was born in Corpus Christi, raised in Texas City and Rockdale, TX, and is an Electrical Engineer.

The justification for his presentation is the claims that the Boutte family have made about being involved with or related to Jean Laffite. He became interested in the subject when he married the present corresponding secretary of this Society, Carolyn Boutte. Rob talked about the 1955 Louisiana Supreme Court decision in favor of one branch of the Boutte family in a mineral rights case. Carolyn's father received huge monthly checks in the amount of \$0.08! This oil discovery was on the southern half of Barataria Island that two Boutte brothers purchased in 1805. Zenon Boutte had a small parcel of this land and died with no heirs in 1863. All the legal actions involving "Barataria" are probably the source of the various Boutte/Laffite claims in later years



Rob categorized the Boutte claims as the "lesser" and "greater". The lesser claim is that two Boutte cousins (Francois Zenon and Francois Cesar, Jr.) were "lieutenants of Laffite" which implies that they were major players in Laffite's smuggling operations. These two were enlisted in the Dubuclet's Hussars at the Battle of New Orleans and were attached to Andrew Jackson's headquarters, serving as messengers. They may have met Laffite during this time, possibly going out to the Temple with Laffite to fortify it at Jackson's request. But nothing has been found to document even this so far, much less anything to support the claims they were involved in Laffite's smuggling. The greater claim is that they were the actual persons of Jean and Pierre Laffite. Rob has seen this put out on the internet without any documentation and thinks this is way over the top. There is just too much history about the cousins' real lives to allow them the time to have had alternate identities. He noted that the Bouttes married into the DeGruy family over three generations. The DeGruys had plantations immediately north of Barataria Island. Some research indicates that the DeGruys were involved in smuggling, but Rob has found no information to indicate that the Boutte family was. The Bouttes seem to have had plenty of opportunities to be into smuggling, but apparently left us no reliable records of it if they did.

Rob showed an abbreviated Boutte family tree beginning with Andre Claude, a soldier who came to Mobile from France in the 1740's. He had five sons, two of which were the fathers of the men mentioned in the claims. In addition to Andre Claude's white family, he took a black slave mistress (Fanchon) when his wife passed away, having another large family with her. When Andre Claude and family moved to the present New Iberia area, they associated with and learned from the resident Attakapa (Ah TAK a pa) Indians. The Indians showed them a shortcut through the Atchafalaya swamps to the Barataria area, cutting down the trip to about 10 days from six weeks. The present day ICW follows much the same route from Morgan City to Barataria. Two of Andre's sons were cowboys running cattle from the Bayou Teche area to the Isle of Barataria, and then on to the meat markets of New Orleans.

Rob showed an old map indicating the property on Bayou Teche acquired by the Bouttes through Spanish land grants and purchases. They were a prominent family and had a good deal of land. While talking about the Attakapas region, he mentioned a book put out in 1959 by Prof. Griffin, U. of LA at Lafayette, about some of the families in Attakapas area. Though the Boutte family is not included, there is an entry in the appendix talking about the marriages of Francois Cesar and

Antoine Boutte to two DeGruy sisters in 1778 with a notation saying that these two were “ancestors of Jean Laffite” – with no references. This gave the believers of the greater claim some apparent legitimacy.

In 1805 the brothers Hilaire and Jean Baptiste Boutte bought the Isle of Barataria for \$2000 and it remained in the family for some years after Laffite left the area. The sale contract was shown and Rob said that this is one document that the State of Louisiana used when they ruled in the Boutte family's favor in the oil rights case.

Rob then talked about Louis Hilaire who took a different path from the other Boutte brothers. Hilaire lived in New Orleans and had a long time relationship with a free woman of color, Rosette Jung, whose father brought in the Canary Islander settlers for the Spanish. Hilaire was a builder and has quite a few fine structures still standing in the New Orleans area. A Tulane School of Architecture website shows the Pitot House (on the Louisiana registry of historic homes) listing Hilaire as a creator - whatever this means. Pitot was the second mayor of New Orleans. Pictures of several other houses in the French Quarter attributed to Hilaire were shown as well. Hilaire built the first floor of the Pedesclaux Building on Royal and St. Peter in 1795. He was involved with the New Orleans Fire Department after the big fires of 1788 and 1794.

So where are these brothers buried? Francois Cesar, Sr. and Phillippe Boutte were part of Galvez's expedition to repel the British at Baton Rouge in 1779 and are buried somewhere on the St. Martin of Tours Church grounds in St. Martinville – the burial locations are lost. Their names are on the Patriots of the American Revolution memorial next to the Evangeline statute on the church grounds. The other three brothers (Hilaire, Jean Baptiste, and Antoine) are buried in the Boutte family tomb in St. Louis Cemetery #1 on Basin Street in New Orleans along with one of their wives. There are at least twenty-two other Boutte family members buried in this tomb. In 2011 Carolyn Boutte had this tomb restored.

Questions:

Is Dominique You buried in St. Louis #1? He is buried in St. Louis #2.

What is the Diboll Digital Survey website? Rob said he would put it out on Yahoo groups.

Where is the Attakapas area? It is west of the Atchafalaya River, bordered by Bayou Teche.

Miscellaneous

Jack announced the programs the coming months.

September	Betty Connor	"Women Pirates"
October	Mike Wonio	"Women at Sea"

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33PM.

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Meridian Retirement Center

Board Members Present: President Larry Porter, FVP Jack Watson, TVP Ginny Roberts/Lynette Haaga, Secretary, Carolyn Peterson, Technology Director Rob Peterson, Archivist Dorothy

Karolanovic, Parliamentarian Diane Olson. Publicity Director Dave Roberts, Editor Dan Cote
Board Members Absent: SVP Kathy Modzelewski, Treasurer Jeff Modzelewski, Coordinator of Research Pam Keyes

Advisory Board Present: Jean Epperson, Dale Olson

Advisory Board Absent: Pam Keyes, Dr. Reginald Wilson, Robert Vogel, Jeff Modzelewski, Kathy Modzelewski

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 by President Larry Porter. Larry thanked former President Ed Jamison for conducting the last two meetings for him while on vacation. He welcomed back long time members Lizette and George Najarian, Dan Cote and his wife, Jo Ann. Rita Wichlep, Brenda Silverstein, Paula and Louie Reed, and Judy and Gil Rowe were also recognized.

Larry gave preliminary information about the Christmas Party saying that the date is December 9 at the Trolley Station starting at 6:00pm. Our favorite pirate (Laffite) will be there in the person of Jim Nonus and Dale Olson is in charge of the program. Lynette Haaga is again organizing the extravaganza. She said that she needed volunteers for the addressing of invitations, decorating on the day before the event, and cleaning up on the day after it. Todd Schott of Chopin, Mon Ami, who has done a great job for us in the past, will cater dinner. She asked for other non-member names to be submitted for invitations. Lynette also reminded the group she needs volunteers for food donations for next month and to please sign in advance. There was also a reminder about the suggested \$5/person donation to cover the food and wine costs.

There will be a field trip on September 29 to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center to learn about the Laffite collection. Following these activities, the group will go to the Magnolia Ridge Country Club for luncheon to be held in honor of Dr. Reginald Wilson and his wife. Contact Jack Watson for details and information about the collection.

Lynette was asked back to the podium to talk about her activities with the History Ladies in the Galveston Beach Band. She researches, writes stories, and does vignettes about Galveston history. This evening she presented a short story about Jean Laffite.

Program Speaker – Betty Connor

Topic – Women Pirates

Betty Connor was born on the Island and taught at Ball High School. She began her presentation by saying she would introduce us to six women pirates spanning the time from the 1200's to the present day while skipping all over the globe.

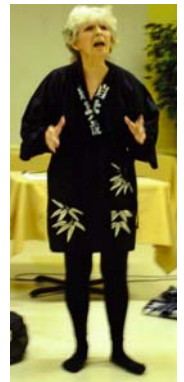
The first is Alfild, daughter of Siward, King of the Goths, whose virginity was highly prized and protected by a serpent and a viper. Many suitors tried and failed to get past her guardians, surrendering their lives in the process - until Prince Alf, son of the king of Denmark - decided to claim her. He succeeded in his task, but Alfild went against societal custom when she began to dress in men's clothing and went off to sea as a pirate. She recruited a crew of women, then combined with a crew of rovers who chose her as their captain. Alfild



finally did battle with the Danes and was captured by none other than Prince Alf. He made her change into women's attire. Afterwards she had his daughter and left her pirate life behind.

Grace O'Malley was born in Ireland in 1530. Her father owned the herring fleet and all who fished in his waters had to pay taxes to do so -- even Philip, the King of Spain. In 1546 she married Donal of the Battle and bore him three children. After his death in battle she led a raid of retaliation and revenge, but Irish law prevented her from becoming chieftain. She returned to her father's land and took over his fleet becoming a pirate. She had men join her crew from all over Ireland and Scotland, guaranteeing them adventure and fortune and the chance to fight their English oppressors. Her second marriage was to Rísdeárd an Iarainn Bourke (Richard), but she stipulated that it was for only one year. When the year expired she took over his lands and dismissed

him, remaining married in name only. In 1577 she was captured by the English and imprisoned for eighteen months, but was released with the provision that she try to reign in her husband's attacks. Even though she had no love for Richard, he did father her favorite child, Tibbot of the Ships. Shortly after giving birth, she did battle with a Turkish corsair where she was victorious. In 1592 her luck ran out when she was captured by Lord Bainbridge and was again imprisoned. Grace petitioned Queen Elizabeth to award her lands to Tibbot and give her a small pension to cover the time she had left. She also promised to vanquish the Queen's enemies, which was a big promise for a woman in her 60's. The Queen agreed to her requests giving her a license to privateer, which she happily did. In 1601 Grace gave her remaining ships to her son and told him to sail in the service of the Queen. He did quite well in his duty and was knighted as Sir Theobald Bourke in 1603, the year that both the Queen and Grace O'Malley died.



Mary Read was born in London in the late 17th century as the illegitimate daughter of a sea captain's widow. Her older brother was born legitimately and when he died her mother began dressing and passing Mary off as her brother to keep receiving a his stipend. Mary continued dressing as a male and found work as a footboy and then employment on a ship. Later she joined the British Army and met a man who became her husband. The couple opened an inn and Mary began dressing as a female. With the death of her husband, she again dressed as a male and joined the Army. She found it very dull since the country was at peace, so she quit and left for the West Indies. In 1720 she joined up with John "Calico Jack" Rackham and his companion, the female pirate Anne Bonne. During this time Mary fell in love with a prisoner and killed another pirate to protect him.

Anne Bonne was born in Ireland in 1700. Her family moved to South Carolina when she was a young child. When she married James Bonne, a poor sailor and small-time pirate, her father disowned her. She and James ran away to the Bahamas where she met Captain Jack Rackham. When she couldn't persuade James to give her a divorce, she and Jack left for a life of piracy. Their exploits eventually led them to capture Mary Read's ship. Anne at first thought that Mary was a handsome young man and wanted to have her way with him, but found out that he was really a she so they became good friends. They had many adventures together, but in late 1720 Jonathan Barnett, commissioned as a pirate hunter by the Governor of Jamaica, captured them all. They were taken to the Bahamas and sentenced to death. The men were hung, while the ladies pleaded that

they were pregnant and received stays of execution. Mary Read died in prison, but there is no historical record of what became of Anne Bonny although many varied stories have been told

Cheng I Sao terrorized the China Sea in the early 19th century. She began as a Cantonese prostitute and in 1801 married the notorious pirate, Zheng Yi. He was able to gather a coalition of competing Cantonese pirate fleets into an alliance creating a formidable force in 1804. In 1807 her husband died and she took over as commander of his ships. She made a fortune by raiding ships and villages and pushing her protection racket. To protect her position of power she first became mistress, then wife (in name only) of her late husband's male lover despite the fact that she had already adopted him as her son. In 1808 the Chinese government decided to stop her activities, but she took care of the government forces without much trouble. In 1810 she was offered an amnesty, which she accepted. Cheng I Sao ran a gambling house in Canton and died in 1844 at the age of 60.



Cheng Chui Ping also known as Sister Ping ran a notorious Chinese human smuggling operation. She was born in 1945 in China and later became a naturalized US citizen. At first she brought family members into the US, then friends, but by 1980 she opened her venture to anyone who could pay the price. Sister believed she was reuniting these poor families, but the US government believed differently. From 1994-2000 she ran the most highly organized smuggling operation in the world. One of her operations made the headlines when a ship, the Golden Venture, went aground off New York. There were 286 illegal immigrants on board, many starving. Ten died trying to swim to land. Sister Ping fled to China since there was no extradition treaty at the time. In 2000 she was arrested in Hong Kong and then extradited to New York. In 2005 she was convicted of smuggling and money laundering and sentenced to 35 years in prison.

Miscellaneous

Larry reminded the group that the Society welcomes any new members. He invited Jan Porter to the podium to announce the formation of the Salvation Army's Women's Auxiliary. The first luncheon will be held on October 2nd at 11:30am at the new facility on 23rd Street. There will be no cost to participants.

Mike Wonio will present next month's program: "Women at Sea".

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58PM.

Tuesday, October 09, 2012

Meridian Retirement Center

Board Members Present: President Larry Porter, SVP Kathy Modzelewski, co-TVP Ginny Roberts/Lynette Haaga, Secretary, Carolyn Peterson, Technology Director Rob Peterson, Archivist Dorothy Karolanovic, Parliamentarian Diane Olson. Publicity Director Dave Roberts, Editor Dan Cote
Board Members Absent: FVP Jack Watson, Treasurer Jeff Modzelewski, Coordinator of Research Pam Keyes

Advisory Board Present: Jean Epperson, Dale Olson, Kathy Modzelewski

Advisory Board Absent: Pam Keyes, Dr. Reginald Wilson, Robert Vogel, Jeff Modzelewski

President Larry Porter called the meeting to order at 6:42 PM. He started by giving a short recap of the field trip to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center. Between twenty and twenty-five attendees made the trip and were treated to an introductory presentation of the Laffite collection given by the head library archivist. Dr. Reginald Wilson gave a short talk summarizing his Laffite research, after which everyone traveled to the Magnolia Ridge Country Club for lunch. After lunch the Society presented Dr. Wilson a plaque in gratitude for all the work he has done on Laffite. He is graciously donating all his research to the Society for the archives.

Larry reminded all that Jane Long Day On Bolivar was the following Saturday and that the Society's own Helen Mooty would be there in her alternate persona of Mrs. Long.

The Christmas party was briefly discussed and the group was reminded about the Dec. 9th date.

**Program Speaker – Michael Wonio
at Sea During the Age of Sail**

Topic – Women and Sometimes Their Children

Larry introduced Michael saying that he is a local theatrical star who has been in many productions of the East End Theatre Group and a longtime Elissa volunteer.

Michael began his presentation by saying that a wide spectrum of society went to sea for all different reasons, including women. He said that it was a myth that women were unwelcome on ships probably arising from taboos such as having a woman aboard during the laying of a keel because it might make it susceptible to supernatural forces. Sailors viewed anything or anyone considered having supernatural connections with suspicion.

Women have always gone to sea, serving in all capacities. The earliest female he noted was Queen Artemisia in the 5th century B.C., a senior commander who fought along side Xerxes of Persia in the Battle of Salamis. Even the Virgin Mary went to sea; it was common to have her shrine at the stern of a ship and it may be the origin of having the flag in that location. During the Victorian era, sailors revered the good women in their lives, yet believed that a naked one could calm storms hence the semi-dressed figurehead. Pregnant women were considered to be good luck and if one gave birth the first night out, it was thought that ship would never sink.



As long as a woman didn't get in the way of the running of the ship, she was welcome. In the 17th and 18th centuries, women were ferried out to the ships on bumboats because impressed sailors could not go ashore to them. This group of women consisted of wives, family members, ladies of the night, and other service providers. There was fierce competition among the women to get a spot on the boat since the boatmen were paid 3 shillings for each woman chosen from his group. As early

as 1730 the British navy had civilian washerwomen on their ships that were picked from the wives and relatives of sailors. Captains routinely had their wives live openly onboard ship during peacetime until 1860 when the practice was banned by the admiralty, though some captains overlooked the rule. After the ban these women were not listed on the official passenger record and could not be rationed so the captains had to make arrangements for the ladies' provisions from their own supplies.

Wives and relatives of other officers and seamen could be taken aboard as legal passengers at the discretion of the captain and these women took part in happenings of the ship. To illustrate this Mike introduced us to Mary Skinner who crossed the Atlantic on her brother's ship that was attacked by the French during the passage. She and her maid set up a ship's hospital and cut up her wedding dress using the fabric as dressings for the wounded. British Army and Marines had women units that were made up of wives and female relatives who could then travel with their men folk and be rationed as well -- but not the Navy. Women that stayed with their Navy husbands did not receive the same perks that the other services offered their female counterparts - they had very harsh existences compared to the others.

The rest of Michael's presentation was made up of historical anecdotes illustrating the lives of women and their families who took to the seas not only on warships, but also on fishing and other commercial vessels.

Indeed, the women presented above were no shrinking violets and their lives at sea bore no resemblance to a Disney or Carnival cruise.

Miscellaneous

Larry thanked Lynette, Ginny, and all food contributors for another tasty meal.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42PM.

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Meridian Retirement Center

Board Members Present: President Larry Porter, SVP Kathy Modzelewski, co-TVP Ginny Roberts/Lynette Haaga, Secretary Carolyn Peterson, Technology Director Rob Peterson, Archivist Dorothy Karilanovic, Publicity Director Dave Roberts

Board Members Absent: Parliamentarian Diane Olson, Editor Dan Cote, Coordinator of Research Pam Keyes

Advisory Board Present: Jean Epperson, Kathy Modzelewski, Jeff Modzelewski

Advisory Board Absent: Pam Keyes, Dr. Reginald Wilson, Robert Vogel, R. Dale Olson

President Larry Porter called the meeting to order at 6:42 PM. He began by recognizing our new member, Root Choyce, and visitors Jim and Ann Stiszewski and Brenda Achley.

Lynette Haaga came up to speak about the Christmas party saying that invitations were done and she thanked all who had helped. She said that the catering had been finalized and that Cathy Conlin Townsend had been chosen. She said that she needed volunteers for decorating and cleanup. Larry mentioned that the program would be based on the Laffite Journal.

Larry announced a Spring Seminar that is the planning stages and is to be held on the Texas A&M University-Galveston campus on March 8. The seminar will cover various Laffite topics.

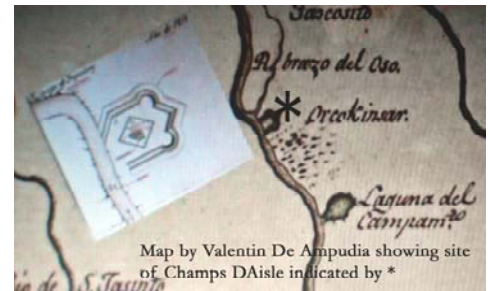
Larry suggested visiting Barataria as a field trip next year. He has been making contacts in the area to see if a visit could be arranged.

Program Speaker - Dr. Betje Klier

Topic – Champ d'Asile

Dr. Klier specializes in French culture and history especially 19th century Franco history and art in Texas. She has a Ph.D. from the University of Texas and is an independent researcher and writer. She began by teaching the group the correct pronunciation of Champ d'Asile - silent "p" - and then asked if anyone knew where it was. No one did except for Jean Epperson and Sheldon Kendall!

Betje mentioned Valentin de Ampudia, the cartographer and engineer, who gave us a very precise map of where it was. He worked under Apodaca who was responsible for Mina's demise. Champ d'Asile was settled on the Trinity River under Apodaca's rule as Viceroy of New Spain and he directed Ampudia to map the settlement. The map gave instructions on how to get to the settlement, how to deal with the Karankawa Indians, and how to get rid of the French. Betje showed a close up of the map showing the engineer's notation for a fortification indicating the possible location of Champ d'Asile. She then showed an enlarged view from another map superimposing it on the first to show the notations were virtually identical. This second illustration was a Vauban fortification just like the one the Spanish dismantled in 1818 at the site of Champ d'Asile.



Betje transitioned to artists' paintings that illustrate the Champ d'Asile story done by those who lived in France and never came to Texas. Most of these paintings show scenes with palm trees and mountains - very representative of the Gulf Coast. These paintings carry over the same theme that society corrupts and that nature heals. She went on to explain that certain symbols appear over and over again in these paintings - symbols of equality and fraternity as well as feet in the position of a Masonic hug. Champ d'Asile was an ambiguous colony, part fiction and part historical. The true motivation of those who were instrumental in the formation of the colony is still unclear.

The Louisiana Purchase neglected to settle the boundary between Louisiana and Texas and it is thought that this was deliberate on Napoleon's part. One reason for the location of Champ d'Asile (1818) was as a strategy to show the Mexican government that they were unable to defend this border any better than they could in Florida. In 1819 the Mexican Government ratified the Adams-Onís treaty making the Sabine the eastern boundary of its territory. Another possible reason for its location was the possible rescue of Napoleon from Pernambuco, Brazil, but the rescue plan really never got off the ground.

Betje showed several drawings of the colony from early publications - some true and some not so

true. In closing she showed a panorama (43 feet of wallpaper) showing life at Champ d'Asile.

Questions:

Is there anything left there? Nothing has been found.

Is it correct that Champ d'Asile has never been found? This is correct.

Was this a failed Utopian venture? It was not a Utopian colony, but Utopian thinking. Only the art shows it as an Utopian community.

What was the total population? It was around 200 people.

How long did it last? It was only populated for seven months.

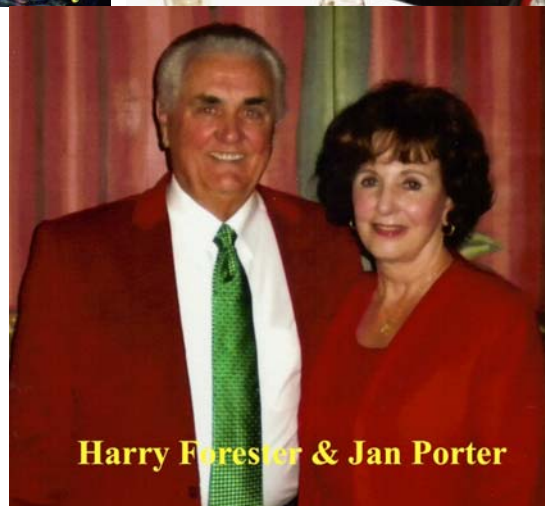
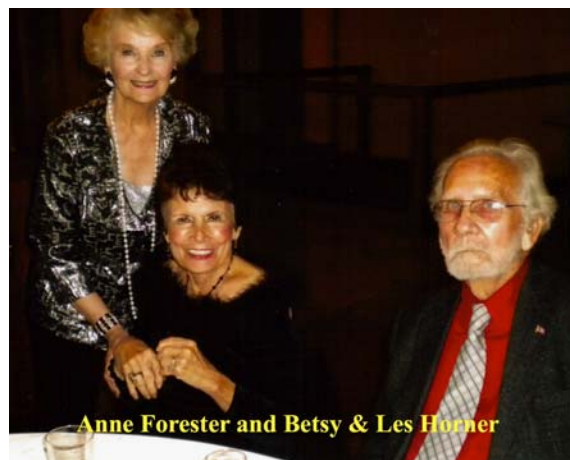
Miscellaneous

The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers for Christmas. Please contact Jan Porter if you are interested.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM.

CHRISTMAS PARTY REVELERS – 2013

Photos by David Roberts





Linda Kuhn and Ed Jamison



Diane & R. Dale Olson and Jim Nonus (Jean Laffite)



Jeff & Kathy Modzelewski and Ed & Betty Conner



Jean Epperson & Sheldon Kundall



Jean Laffite (Jim Nonus) in a terrible shoot-out with President Larry Porter



Jane Rushing
Marguerite & Norman Sachnik



Cheryl & Jack Watson

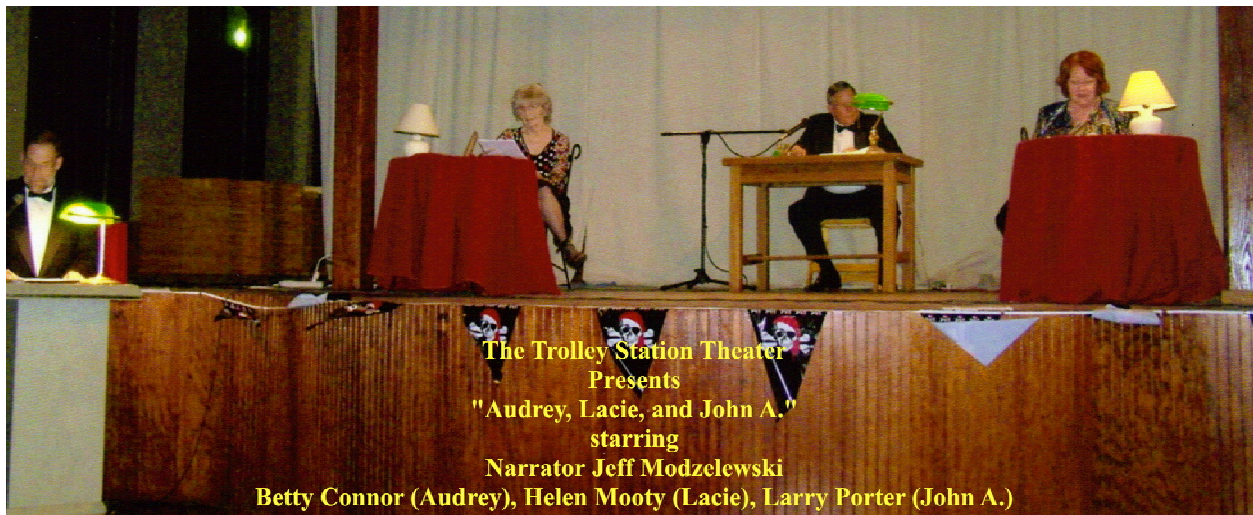


Diane & Mike Wonio, Jeff Modzelewski
and Dave Roberts



Nicole & John Trojanowski

To say that all had a good time would be a major understatement. And what a skit the Laffite Players presented.



The Trolley Station Theater
Presents
"Audrey, Lacie, and John A."
starring
Narrator Jeff Modzelewski
Betty Connor (Audrey), Helen Mooty (Lacie), Larry Porter (John A.)