

## THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

Meridian Retirement Center, 2228 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77550

### **Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Board Members Present: President Ed Jamison, FVP Jack Watson, SVP Kathy Modzelewski, Acting TVP Jim Nonus, Secretary Carolyn Peterson, Treasurer Nancy Beaman, Editor Dan Cote, Publicity Director Dave Roberts, Technology Director Rob Peterson, Archivist Larry Porter, Parliamentarian Diane Olson

Board Members Absent: Coordinator of Research Pam Keyes

Advisory Board Present: R. Dale Olson, Jean Epperson, Jeff Modzelewski

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

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President Ed Jamison called the meeting to order at 6:38PM. He acknowledged guests in the audience. They were Jim Atchley and Carlos Rios.

Treasurer Nancy Beaman gave her report saying that as of August 10 there was \$1964.73 whereas on September 14, there is \$2280.50 in the Society account.

Ed talked about the new exhibit opening on October 8 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science titled "Real Pirates". The period involved began in 1715. He also spoke of a pirate festival to be held at the Elissa Museum called "The Golden Age of Piracy" that will spotlight piracy from the culinary perspective.

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Mike Riley was called up to introduce two members of the Jane Long Society, Margo Johnson and Gerry Lang. Margo married into the Johnson family who settled at Bolivar in the mid 1880's. She wanted to highlight the Jane Long Festival to be held on October 9 from 11:00AM to 4:00PM. There will be vendors and booths that will have goods and crafts from the Jane Long period. They hope the festival will illustrate that Bolivar is on its way back after the storm.

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### **Program Speaker – Kirk Clark**

### **Topic – Historical Maps**

Jack Watson introduced Kirk Clark who is a Registered Engineer and Sr. Process Safety Consultant for the refining and petrochemical industry. Kirk is the official historian for the Friends of Galveston Island State Park and also an acting board member of that organization.

In his presentation he discussed overlaying old and more modern maps to compare the changes in geography and topography over time. It provides a useful tool for historical research. He used this technique to pin down the location of the "Three Trees" in West Galveston. Many old and more recent maps were presented to the group for their inspection.

Kirk explained some of the early surveyor's techniques such as use of the chain (67 feet) in measuring distances and that the State Land Office should have original surveyor's notes on each project.

He then presented maps showing Pelican Island and spoke of the changes it had undergone in the last couple of hundred years. The island was there in historical times, but has been enlarged

due to spoil buildup from dredging operations. Kirk showed maps of Turtle Bay and explained that Lake Anahuac was formed when spoil from the Trinity River closed off Turtle Bay.

Kirk concluded that Galveston's coastline really has not changed that drastically over time.

### **Questions to the Speaker**

Q: Where can you get these maps?

A: From the Texas Land Office; USGS Quad Maps can give a photo of a specific area of interest; TAMU has copies of negatives for reproduction.

Q: Why are you interested in these maps?

A: They are snapshots in time.

Q: What was the purpose of the 1837 map?

A: Kirk said that there was some interest in selling the land. He also said that this map accurately locates the position of the Bolivar lighthouse even though the tip of Bolivar has moved around over the centuries.

Q: Was Hitchcock Bayou in the same location as the Lost Bayou subdivision?

A: Hitchcock Bayou was filled in during the Civil War. He is unfamiliar with the subdivision.

Q: What kind of markers did surveyors use?

A: They drove stakes in the ground and used concrete posts. They did not mark trees because of possible confusion about the meaning of the markings to the general populace.

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Ed thanked Ed Connor for bartending. He also thanked Jim Nonus and Ginny Roberts for the delicious food they provided.

He reminded the group about the Olson's need for docents for the Loft Walk on October 2 & 3.

Jeff Modzelewski said that he had received a note of thanks from Dr. Paul Spellman for help the group gave him in regarding John Roach. He specifically thanked Mike Bailey. Spellman is writing a book on the Stephen F. Austin colonists and Laffite pirate history will be of great use. The book may be out in two years and the Society may host a book signing event.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:38PM.

Submitted by Carolyn Peterson  
Corresponding/Recording Secretary