

file

MINUTES  
General Meeting  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
January 21, 2003  
THE TROLLEY STOP BUILDING  
2021 Strand  
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeffrey Modzelewski; First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator-of-Research, Pam Keyes; Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson; R. Dale Olson; Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ron and Beth Austin; Stephen N. Broadstone; Dan Cote; Charles Kelly; Sheldon Kindall; Chris Woolwine-Moen; John Moen; Richard Rasche; Betty Wilson

VISITORS: David Bowers; Marsh Davis; The Reverend Lady Elizabeth Glover-Galloway; Arthur Kenney; Charles W. Ward

#### CALL TO ORDER

The President called the general meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. with an introduction of new members present and remarks regarding the successful outcome of the Society's December Holiday party. He asked the Secretary to maintain on file the master copy of the biographical information prepared and used to introduce the guests and members who had attended the 2002 event.

#### MEETING PRESENTATION

Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson discussed first-hand impressions he had researched on the devastating effects on Galveston Island of the 1818 hurricane, with special reference to differing viewpoints as to the number of deaths and conditions existing on the island at the time. In search of his information, Dr. Wilson consulted the 1857 City Hall Directory of Galveston; the papers at the Rosenberg Library of Dr. Joseph O. Dyer, former writer for *The Galveston Daily News*; W.T. Block's writings on the Joseph Campbell family; Jack Ramsay's book, *Prince of Pirates*; and, according to Dr. Wilson, the most detailed account given by Hartmann and Mallard in the book entitled *The Story of Champ d'Asile*.

#### MINUTES

Minutes of the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as read by the Secretary to those present. .

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jerry Eubank read her written report to the group, stated as follows: Beginning balance Nov. 19, 2002 of \$3,522.86; disbursements totaling \$1,727.53; deposits of \$455.00; with an ending balance on January 21, 2003 of \$2,250.33. New and reinstated members for 2003 totaled fourteen.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM FRANCE

The President stated that French member Patrick Lafitte had sent warm holiday greetings to fellow Laffitians.

## PLANS FOR MADISON ROUGE HOMES TOUR

Advisory Board Member R. Dale Olson recommended formation of a committee to discuss plans for the upcoming Historical Homes Tour at 1417 Harbor side Drive in May, 2003. Volunteers are needed to decide subject matter of scripts and the number required. Dale volunteered to work on writing of scripts.

Third Vice-President Kathy Modzelewski offered to chair a committee to recruit volunteers to act as docents for the tour weekends. A suggestion was made to consider having special T-shirts made with a Laffite Society logo, as well as several flags representing the Laffite era.

## ARTIFACTS RETURNED

R. Dale Olson called for volunteers to help return excavated artifacts to the Maison Rouge site at 1417 Harborside Drive. Member-at-Large Dan Cote offered to contact the Seaborne Challenge at Fort Point organization to inquire if some of their members might be willing to perform the ground excavation necessary to replace the artifacts.

## LETTER FROM MRS. PAUL H. BUSH

The Secretary read a letter from Pablo Bush Romero's widow, Mrs. Paul H. Bush of El Paso, TX with reference to the former's 1959 report of his investigations into Laffite history in the Yucatan. A reading of the report was deferred due to time limits.

## BRISCOE RESTAURANT PROPOSAL

The President stated that a decision had been postponed to send a written response to an inquiry for permission to use the Laffite Society's logo in signage for a new restaurant to be established in The Trolley Stop Building, also the site of the Laffite Society meeting room.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the general meeting of January 21, 2003 was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Coresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:2-14-03

MINUTES  
General Meeting  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
February 18, 2003  
THE TROLLEY STOP BUILDING  
2021 Strand  
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeff Modzelewski; First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD Karilanovic; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Coordinator-of-Research, Pam Keyes; Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD: Jean L. Epperson; R. Dale Olson; Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Beth & Ron Austin; Dan Cote; Sheldon Kindall; George Najarian; Sybil Marler; Richard & Kileen Prather; Richard Rasche; Betty Wilson

VISITORS: Sandra and Ray Stockhoff

CALL TO ORDER

President Jeff Modzelewski called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., announcing that Second Vice-President Mike Eubank and Treasurer Jerry Eubank had been called out of town because of family illness.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - THE J.O. DYER COLLECTION

Ex-Officio President and Advisory Board Member R. Dale Olson presented a talk on the Joseph Osterman Dyer collection of historical documents and items housed at the Rosenberg Library in Galveston. J. O. Dyer, newspaper writer and physician and nephew of Isadore Dyer, had arrived in Galveston in 1876 and resided at 2419 Avenue O. Among the many items referred to in Dale's list of the collection were the following:

1) July 17, 1818 letter from Jean Laffite to General James Long, which Mrs. Jane Long supposedly gave to Dyer.

2) A Letter-of-Marque

3) Various relics said to have come from the Laffite commune on Galveston Island.

4) Autographs of early Texas leaders

5) Papers and pictures of early Galveston

6) David and William Burnett papers

7) Sketch by Dyer of Laffite's house, the Maison Rouge, as given from memory to Dyer by Charles Cronea, former cabin boy on the ship of Capt. James Campbell, Jean Laffite's right-hand man

At the conclusion of his talk, Dale stated that some of the items mentioned as being in the Dyer collection could not presently be located at the library, and that the collection could be a fruitful area of study for a dedicated researcher..

#### NEW BOOK BY DON C. MARLER

Laffite Society Editor-of-Publications and Dogwood Press Publisher Don C. Marler spoke on the subject of his ground-breaking research from his new book *Redbones of Louisiana: For 200 Years Redbones Have Been Louisiana's Mysterious People*, published by Dogwood Press, 2003.

#### MINUTES

No corrections or additions for the Minutes of January 21, 2003.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

No current report was available due to absence of Treasurer Jerry Eubank.

#### THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES

The President stated that *The Chronicles* would be distributed by mail upon return of Membership Chairman Mike Eubank.

#### 1816, 1848 MAPS

Due to time limits, Dr. Reginald Wilson's discussion of maps of 1816 and 1848 showing the exact location of a fort and grounds established by privateer Louis Aury was deferred until a subsequent meeting.

#### RECIPES FOR CAFÉ BRÛLOT ("DIABLE" OR ROYAL)

First Vice-President and Program Chairman Jim Nonus gave out two recipes for Café Brûlot, a "spectacular coffee beverage" served at Arnaud's in New Orleans, said to have originally been concocted by Jean Laffite from ingredients "found aboard his ship." According to the Program Chairman, the beverage will be prepared and served to members at the March meeting as a special event treat.

#### DIGITAL PHOTOS OF LAFFITE SOCIETY MEMBERS

Member-at-Large Dan Cote offered to take digital photos of Laffite Society members to include in *The Laffite Society Chronicles* along with a short biography of each to be contributed by members.

#### MAISON ROUGE SITE

Parliamentarian Diane Olson called for volunteers to help clear and landscape the Maison Rouge site at 1417 Harborside Drive in preparation for the May, 2003 Galveston Historical Homes Tour.

#### SIGNS, POLO SHIRTS, FLAGS

The President again emphasized the need for signs to be erected on The Trolley Stop Building, and asked for ideas from members for the design of polo shirts and flags to be displayed at the Maison Rouge site for the May, 2003 Galveston Historical Homes Tour.

**BURIAL OF ARTIFACTS**

R. Dale Olson reported that under the direction of Laffite Society Member-at-Large and avocational archeologist Sheldon Kindall, some of the contents of approximately 100 boxes of artifacts originally excavated from the Maison Rouge site were re-buried over a period of two weekends with the assistance of members of the Houston Archeological Society who inspected the contents of each box, segregated and consigned certain of the objects for further study.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the general meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk:3-11-03

File

MINUTES  
General Meeting  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
March 18, 2003  
THE TROLLEY STOP BUILDING  
2021 Strand  
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeff Modzelewski; First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic;

BOARD ABSENT: Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Coordinator-of-Research, Pam Keyes; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: David Bowers; Joe and Judy Dolfi; Sheldon Kindall; Richard and Kileen Prather; Norman Sachnik; Betty Wilson

VISITORS: Michael J. Baily (Curator, Brazoria County Historical Museum); David Pettus (researcher, Brazoria County Historical Museum)

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

DISCUSSION OF EARLY MAPS

Prior to the business meeting, Dr. Reginald Wilson spoke on early maps of Galveston dated 1816 and 1848, showing the possible location of Jean Laffite's fort.

Visitor and curator of the Brazoria County Historical Museum Michael J. Baily and researcher Davie Pettes contributed information on the museum's on-going collection of early Texas maps. Mr. Baily also mentioned that there are probably early survey maps, including an 1823 map of Galveston, on file in the Library of Congress, information on which is accessible by e-mail.

MINUTES

Minutes were not read at the meeting as they are now transmitted to members by e-mail. No corrections or additions were made to the Minutes of February 18.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Due to absence of Treasurer, Jerry Eubanks, because of family illness, no report was available.

BOOK DONATION

Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski donated a book to the Society's collection entitled, *With Santa Anna in Texas: A Personal Narrative of the Revolution*, by José Enrique de la Peña, 1975, 1997, Texas A. & M University Press.

#### OLD NEW ORLEANS BEVERAGE

First Vice-President and Program Chairman Jim Nonus prepared on site and served to members for their pleasure a “spectacular,” old New Orleans coffee beverage, Café Brûlot, said to have originally been concocted by Jean Laffite from ingredients, “found aboard his ship.” Recipes for the beverage were made available at the February 18 meeting..

#### MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> GALVESTON HISTORICAL HOMES TOUR

Third Vice-President and Special Events Chairperson Kathy Modzelewski called for volunteers to serve as docents for the two-weekend event at the Maison Rouge site, 1417 Harborside Drive, Galveston.

#### SPECIAL EVENT TRIP

Special Events Chairperson Kathy Modzelewski mentioned June 19-22, 2003 as possible dates for a trip by Laffite Society members to New Orleans.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the general meeting of Feb. 18 was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk:4/7/03

MINUTES  
General Meeting  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
April 15, 2003  
THE TROLLEY STOP BUILDING  
2021 Strand  
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeffrey Modzelewski; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson; R. Dale Olson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE Beth & Ron Austin; Mike Bailey; Dan Cote; Sheldon Kindall; Norman and Margie Sachnik

VISITOR: David Pettus

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

MAISON ROUGE, GALVESTON HISTORICAL HOMES TOUR

R. Dale Olson read from a list of requirements for hosting the two weekend Galveston Historical Homes tour of the Maison Rouge site at 1417 Harborside Drive. Volunteers were called for to help with the event.

BOOK SIGNING

The *Leesville Daily Leader* announced a book signing hosted by the Museum of West Louisiana for Laffite Society Members Jean L. Epperson and Don C. Marler for their new books entitled, respectively, *Lost Spanish Towns: Atoscocito and Trinidad de Salcedo* and *Redbones of Louisiana: For 200 Years Redbones Have Been Louisiana's Mystery People*. Epperson's book is a collection of stories about small towns in Texas in the 1800s. Don Marler's work is the first and only history of Louisiana's Redbone people and "promises to be a benchmark in the preservation of their culture and traditions."

TEXAS MAP SOCIETY PRESENTATION

Laffite Society President Jeff Modzelewski reported on a talk he gave at the Texas Map Society's Spring 2003 meeting held in Galveston April 5, 2003. Jeff stated that his talk entitled *Jean Lafitte - Fact and Conjecture* was well received by map society members.

MINUTES

There were no corrections or additions to the Minutes of March 18, 2003.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jerry Eubank provided the Secretary with a list of the Society's Christmas party attendees and expenses, as well as treasury reports for January through April, 2003, showing an ending balance in the account for April 15, 2003, of \$2,603.72.

## NEW MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR 2003

Second Vice-President Mike Eubank and Jerry Eubank gave out updated membership lists indicating a total of 65 subscriptions on file.

## NEW ORLEANS SPECIAL EVENT TRIP

Third Vice-President and Special Events Chairperson Kathy Modzelewski provided information on the Society's upcoming trip to New Orleans June 19-22, 2003, and urged members to make their hotel reservations early.

## NEW BOOK AVAILABLE

Advisory Board Member R. Dale Olson reported that the book *The French in Texas*, based on a seminar held at the University of Texas in Austin, TX in March, 2001, is now available for purchase. The book includes a chapter written by Olson entitled *French Pirates and Privateers* and was a contributory presentation at the seminar on behalf of the Laffite Society in Galveston.

## BEDFORD, VA. HISTORY

Historian, Laffite Society member, and book store proprietor Peter Viemeister provided for members' interest a flyer outlining important historical dates and books on the history of Bedford, Va. now available at Hamilton's bookstore, via e-mail address [peter.v.com](mailto:peter@peter.v.com)

## RARE BOOK CATALOGUES DONATED

Advisory Board Member R. Dale Olson donated copies for the Society's archive of catalogues of the William Reese Co. of New Haven, Ct., specializing in rare books and documents on history.

## LAFFITE SOCIETY WEB SITE

A motion was tendered and approved to continue the present expenditure for the Laffite Society's Web site.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the general meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk:5/15/03

File

MINUTES  
General Meeting  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
May 20, 2003  
THE TROLLEY STOP  
2021 Strand  
GALVESTON, TX 77550

**BOARD PRESENT:** President, Jeff Modzelewski; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Press Director, Dave Roberts

**BOARD ABSENT:** First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator-of-Research, Pam Keyes; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Archivist (office vacant)

**ADVISORY BOARD:** Jean L. Epperson; Dr. Reginald Wilson

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:** David Bowers; Dan Cote; Sheldon Kindall; Don & B.J. Peak; Ginny Roberts; Betty Wilson

**CALL TO ORDER**

The President called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. with an acknowledgment of the death of long-time Laffite Society member Richard R. Rasche, reading from an obituary outlining his many accomplishments. Appreciation was also extended to members who had contributed time and effort in the recent Galveston Historical Homes Tour event of May 3 and 4, and May 10 and 11 at the Maison Rouge Site on 1417 Harborside Drive.

**MINUTES**

Minutes approved with no corrections or additions.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

No report was available due to absence of Treasurer, Jerry Eubank.

**DIGITAL PHOTOS**

Member-at-Large Dan Cote contributed for the Society's archives digital photos taken Sunday, May 11 at the Maison Rouge site during the Galveston Historical Homes Tour.

**NEW ORLEANS SPECIAL EVENT TRIP**

Third-Vice-President Kathy Modzelewski discussed possible up-coming activities during the June 19-22, 2003 trip to New Orleans, LA.

**NEW BOOK ON SALE**

President Jeff Modzelewski, co-owner of Island Books, reported that several hard and soft copies of *The French in Texas* are available for purchase. The book is a collection of presentations from a seminar given at The University of Texas in Austin, TX in March of 2001 including contributions by Laffite Society members.

#### TV SHOW ON LAFFITE

Advisory Board Member and Historian Jean L. Epperson reported on a recent contact with a representative of Lion TV who has expressed interest in airing a program on Jean Laffite to be shown in *History Detective* over PBS, further discussion pending.

#### BOOK SIGNING BY MEMBERS

A proposal was offered to consider a book signing by several Laffite Society members who have recent books in print.

#### GALVESTON ISLAND MAP SURVEYS

Advisory Board Member Jean L. Epperson discussed recent searches done by Sheldon Kindall, R. Dale Olson and herself into early survey maps of Galveston Island showing the Laffite commune site, as follows: 1) 1816 map showed a "fort"; 1822 map - "squares" indicating huts; 3) 1828 - a *pozo* (Spanish for "well"); 1831 - customs house; 1834 - cypress customs house.

#### EPPERSON AND MARLER VISITS ACKNOWLEDGED

Members were shown an article by Alice Bates Prudhomme published in the *DeSoto Plume*, Spring, 2003, entitled *Texas Authors and Historians Visit DeSoto Parish Historical Sites*, in reference to visits to Mansfield and Carmel by Laffite Society Members Jean L. Epperson and Don C. Marler during recent book signings.

#### ARTICLE BY ROBERT C. VOGEL

According to Texas Historian and member Jean L. Epperson, an article entitled *Paul Bouët Laffite: A Borderlands Life*, by Laffite Society researcher and author Robert C. Vogel, has been published by the East Texas Historical Association.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

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

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk:6/11/03

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MINUTES  
General Meeting  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
June 17, 2003  
THE TROLLEY STOP  
2021 Strand  
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeff Modzelewski; First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator-of-Research, Pam Keyes; Program Director, Dave Roberts; Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD: Jean L. Epperson; R.. Dale Olson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Dan and Joanne Cote; Sheldon Kindall; Louise Martin; George Najarian; Don and B.J. Peak; David Pettus; Norman and Margie Sachnik; Chris Woolwine

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. and acknowledged a birth date of June 20 for Member-at-Large Louise Martin who was present at this evening's meeting,

MINUTES

No corrections or additions were offered by the membership present, nor by e-mail.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jerry Eubank provided two written reports for the months of May and June, showing an ending balance for May of \$2,440.65 and for June, of \$2,339.48.

DONATIONS FOR REFRESHMENTS

President Jeff Modzelewski reminded members of the necessity to make donations at monthly meetings to defray the cost of refreshments.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The Secretary read a thank you note from Mrs. Marjorie Rasche, wife of recently deceased Member-at-Large Richard R. Rasche, expressing appreciation to the Society on behalf of her family for sending flowers and for attending the visitation service.

SPYGLASS ARTICLE AND T.V. INTERVIEW

Advisory Board Member R. Dale Olson spoke briefly about his recent interview at the Maison Rouge site with a T.V. crew filming a television special on Jean Laffite, to be aired over the Public Broadcasting System in the program *History Detectives*. The interview centered around a spyglass said to have been presented as a gift by Jean Laffite in 1821 to a former lieutenant, Captain James Campbell who eventually settled as a farmer in the Texas City, TX area, and who is buried there. The Spyglass is now in possession of the Moore Memorial Library in Texas City. The article on the interview, entitled *Was it Laffite's Spyglass?*, appeared on June 13, 2003 on the front page of *THE GALVESTON COUNTY DAILY NEWS* along with a photo of R. Dale Olson, owner of the Maison Rouge site and Ex-Officio President of the Laffite Society.

## PARKS BOARD EVENT, "JEAN LAFFITE DAY"

Chris Woolwine, Laffite Society Member-at-Large and Vice-President of the Special Events Department of the Galveston Parks Board, spoke to members briefly of the upcoming "Jean Laffite Days" event scheduled for November 7-8, 2003 at Pier 21 and the Seaport Museum in Galveston. Ms. Woolwine suggested that members might want to consider the following activities: 1) set up an exhibit booth of information on Laffite and the Society for solicitation of memberships; 2) offer tours of the Maison Rouge site at 1417 Harborside Drive; 3) participate in offering ideas for an "island treasure hunt",

## \*\*\*SPECIAL PRESENTATION \*\*\*

Tommy Lecroy of "North Louisiana", professional carpenter and boat maker, presented a talk on how to build and use a *pirogue*. An example of his fine craftsmanship was on view at the meeting site: his favorite *pirogue* named "John Lee", made of cypress, weighing about 40 pounds, and having the potential of carrying over 1,000 pounds of weight.

## JUAN SEGUÍN LAND SURVEY

Member-at-Large David Pettus, provided the Society's archive with a photocopy of a document attesting to a title transfer to Juan N. Seguin of one league of land on Galveston Island on July 30, 1834, and including a description of a surveyor's notes.

## UP-COMING SPECIAL EVENT TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS

Third Vice-President and Special Events Chairperson Kathy Modzelewski discussed plans for the Society's special event trip to New Orleans June 19-22, 2003. Ms Modzelewski reported that she had performed an extensive search on the Internet for activities and places of interest to visit in the New Orleans area and along the Baratarian coast, and that she would incorporate her findings, along with those submitted by R. Dale Olson, and Pam Keyes, Coordinator-of-Research, to create an overall plan for a guided tour for the group. Ms. Keyes' self-guided tour plans were submitted for inclusion following notification that she would not be able to participate in the trip due to serious injuries suffered in a recent automobile accident.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

The being no further business, the general meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk:6/27/03

File

**TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2003**

**Laffite Society meeting canceled due to arrival of Hurricane Claudette.**

MINUTES  
BOARD MEETING  
THE Laffite SOCIETY  
July 1, 2003  
THE TROLLEY STOP  
2021 Strand  
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeffrey Modzelewski; First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Historian, Jean L. Epperjson; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Coordinator-of-Research, Pam Keyes; Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson; R. Dale Olson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Sheldon Kindall; Sybil Marler

CALL TO ORDER

Following a call to order by President Jeff Modzelewski at 6:30 p.m., the following topics were addressed by the Board:

- 1) A written public policy of the Society's activities to protect and plant firmly in the public mind its focus of scholarly study, research, and publication.
- 2) Review and revision of the Society's By-Laws
- 3) Resumption of regularly scheduled Board meetings as required in the By-Laws
- 4) Frequency of meetings, *i.e.*, continue to hold them monthly, or every other month, etc.
- 5) Well publicized special presentations held several times a year to attract new members
- 6) Telephone or written reminders of special presentations to encourage attendance
- 7) Assignments of person(s) to answer e-mail inquires
- 8) Organization of archives
- 9) Placement of time-line history of Laffites on e-mail
- 10) Editing and further development of Laffite primer
- 11) Request Parks Board to hire a security guard for the Maison Rouge site during the Pirates' Day event Nov.7-8, 2003
- 12) Restricting exhibits to 2-3 hours each day of Pirates' Day event to utilize fewer volunteers

ISSUES RESOLVED

- 1) President Jeff Modzelewski will send a statement of the Society's public policy of activities to the Galveston Parks Board.
- 2) Summaries of the Society's Minutes will be omitted from future issues of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business of the Board, meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

7/6/03

118

MINUTES  
General Meeting  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
August 19, 2003  
THE TROLLEY STOP  
2021 Strand  
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeffrey Modzelewski; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator-of Research, Pam Keyes; Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: R. Dale Olson; Jean L. Epperson; Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Sheldon Kindall; Louise Martin; David Pettus; Betty Wilson

VISITOR: Wil Zapalac

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., welcoming back former member Wil Zapalac

MINUTES

No corrections or additions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jerry Eubank, presented a written treasury report stating a current balance in the Society's account of \$2,347.48.

AUTHORSHIP OF *THE JOURNAL*

Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson spoke briefly on his theory that Jean Laffite's son, Antoine Laffite, may have penned the controversial *Journal*, noting his observations of comparative samples of handwriting from the *Le Brave* document, the letter to General Long from Laffite, and *The Journal*, as well as other points from various sources that may support his theory. Dr. Wilson's observations, the result of long research, have been included in a dossier entitled *Who Wrote THE JOURNAL?* which is now on file in the Society's archive.

THE CANNON OF CHAMP D'ASILE

Society Historian and Advisory Board Member Jean L. Epperson read to members a short paper she had prepared on the mystery of the disappearance of 8 cannon said to have been located in the Plaza of Arms in the French settlement of Champ d'Asile. A copy of her paper, *The Cannon of Champ d'Asile* is on file in the Laffite Society archive.

#### SEARCH FOR SITE OF CHAMP D'ASILE

Member-at-Large and archeologist Sheldon Kindall reported that a search has begun to excavate for the site of the Champ d'Asile encampment. Participants include Historian and Society member Jean L. Epperson, members of the Houston Archeological Society, Dir. Robert Schaadt of The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, and others.

#### WALKING TOUR OF NEW ORLEANS

Advisory Board Member R. Dale Olson spoke on members' special event field trip to Jean Laffite, La, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans this past June. Photos of the various sites were provided by Diane Olson.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the general meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk:9-12-03

MINUTES  
General Meeting  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
September 16, 2003  
THE TROLLEY STOP  
2021 Strand  
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT:: President, Jeffrey Modzelewski; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Press Director, Dave Roberts

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Editor-of-Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator-of-Research, Pam Keyes; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson; Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ron and Beth Austin; Stephen Broadstone; Ron Broadstone; Dan Cote; Sheldon Kindall; Louise Martin; Don and B.J. Peak; David Pettus; Norman and Marguerite Sachnik; Betty Wilson

VISITOR: Wil Zapalac

CALL TO ORDER

The President call the general meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. with a welcoming to all and thanks extended to Mike and Jerry Eubank for overseeing printing and distribution of the October, 2003 issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS FROM MARJORIE RASCHE

President Jeff Modzelewski read a note of appreciation from Mrs. Marjorie Rasche, wife of recently deceased Laffite Society member Richard R. Rasche, thanking the Society for sending her a copy of the October, 2003 issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles* which included a eulogy written by the President in memory of her late husband.

MINUTES

No corrections or additions were noted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Presenting a written report, Treasurer, Jerry Eubank, announced a balance to date of \$2,054.30 in the Laffite Society account.

THE CHRONICLES

Mike and Jerry Eubank stated that two copies of *The Laffite Society Chronicles, Vol. IX, No. 2, October, 2003*, were forwarded to the Rosenberg Library history center.

#### NOVEMBER, 2003 PIRATE FESTIVAL, GALVESTON

Third Vice-President Kathy Modzelewski stated that she would speak directly with Chris Woolwine of the Galveston Parks Department to remind her of the Laffite Society's written declaration not to commit to more than three to four hours during one day only for open admission to the Maison Rouge site during the weekend of the Pirate Festival event.

#### NEW POSTING OF LAFFITE SOCIETY INFORMATION ON INTERNET

The President announced that info containing answers to frequently asked questions regarding Laffite history will be posted via e-mail to the Laffite Society News Group. Editor-of-Publications Don Marler and Advisory Board Member Robert C. Vogel will prepare the information.

#### LAFFITE ESSAY BY WILLIAM C. DAVIS

Historian/Advisory Board Member Jean L. Epperson read an e-mail letter from author William C. Davis, referring to an attached essay he had prepared, *The Laffites - the Early Louisiana Years*, intended for comments from members. Davis may include the essay as a chapter in a new book to be published by Dogwood Press.

#### NEW LINK FOR WEB SITE

A decision was made to link to the Laffite Society web site the Annabelle Publishing Co. with information relating to a new book entitled *Sink or Be Sunk*.

#### ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF RUBIO MAÑE WORK

President Jeffrey Modzelewski spoke about his current English translation in progress of Ignacio Rubio Mañe's book *Los Piratas Laffite*, published in Spanish in 1934. Mr. Modzelewski's translation of this work will be the first one published in English and is intended as a tribute in honor of the Society's pending tenth anniversary.

#### LAFFITE LIBRARY SEARCH

Member-at-Large and researcher David Pettus stated he has committed himself to a search for Laffite documents at the Rosenberg Library to ascertain the actual existence of items listed in the library's catalogued files.

#### COLLECTIBLE PHOTOS

Press Director Dave Roberts mentioned he had in his possession a number of photos of previous Laffite Society special events and other activities.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

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

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\\dmk:10/13/03

MINUTES  
General Meeting  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
October 21, 2003  
THE TROLLEY STOP  
2021 Strand  
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jeffrey Modzelewski; First Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Coordinator-of-Research, Pam Keyes; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson; R. Dale Olson; Dr. Reginald Wilson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ron and Beth Austin; David Bowers; Dan Cote; Sheldon Kindall; Louise Martin; Norman and Marguerite Sachnik; Betty Wilson

GUEST SPEAKER: Bill Doree

VISITORS: Kimmie Rhodes and Joe Gracey; "Dusty" M. Rhodes

**CALL TO ORDER**

The President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a welcome to visitors and researchers on 19<sup>th</sup> century New Orleans cuisine Kimme Rhodes and Joe Gracy from Austin, TX.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Maritime historian Bill Doree introduced by First Vice-President and Program Chairman Jim Nonus, spoke on his research on Texas maritime history covering the Spanish period for 400 years up to 1816 and the privateering period from April 6, 1816 to 1820, using as some of his resources coasting ship directory listings and information from newspapers of Baltimore, Charleston, and Philadelphia from 1822 to 1836, referencing 320 plus vessels. Mr. Doree stated his intention of eventually publishing a book on ships and unusual facts and events pertaining to the shipping trade and the men who made this occupation a way of life.

**NEW ARTICLE ON CHAMP D'ASILE**

Laffite Society Historian and Advisory Board Member Jean L. Epperson donated to the Society's archive a copy of *The Journal of Houston Archeology Society*, #118, August, 1997 which includes her article entitled *Where was Champ d'Asile?*

**MINUTES**

No corrections or additions were noted.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Jerry Eubank present a written statement of the Society's account showing a balance as of today's date of \$2,254.83.

#### LAFFITE TIME-LINE

President Jeff Modzelewski recommended that the Society consider awarding special recognition to Editor-of-Publications Don C. Marler and Second Vice-President, Membership Chairman, and New Group Coordinator Mike Eubank for their time and effort in setting up the Laffite Society time-line question-and-answer news source for internet viewers

#### E-MAIL QUERIES ON LAFFITE HISTORY

The President stated he would send out a generalized response acknowledging receipt of inquiries received via e-mail. Mike Eubank suggested that members who decide to answer queries from the internet on Laffite history also inform him of their decision to do so.

#### NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK ON LAFFITE

The President announced a book-signing at Midsummer Books, Galveston, by Frank Fox of Lake Charles, LA, for his illustrated children's book entitled *Jean Laffite and the Big Ol' Whale*.

#### LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES

President Jeff Modzelewski reported that a complete set of the Society's publication had been ordered by Ken Kinkor, Project Historian, Expedition Whydah, Box 493, Provincetown, MA 02657.

#### HOLIDAY PARTY

Program Chairman Jim Nonus called for suggestions for the Society's annual Holiday social scheduled for Sunday, December 14. A committee was formed consisting of Jim Nonus, Jerry and Mike Eubank, Kathy & Jeff Modzelewski, Diane and Dale Olson, and Dorothy Karilanovic.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Member-at-Large Margie Sachnik mentioned the recent hospitalization of member Mrs. Virginia (Ginny) Roberts and illness of former member Bill Foley. The Secretary stated she would send a get-well card to Mrs. Roberts on behalf of the Society.

The President extended thanks to members B. J. and Don Peak, Betty Wilson, and Louise Martin and others for the night's refreshments.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the general meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk:11/16/03

**MINUTES  
GENERAL MEETING  
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY  
November 18, 2003  
THE TROLLEY STOP  
2021 Strand  
GALVESTON, TX. 77550**

**BOARD PRESENT:** President, Jeff Modzelewski; First vice-President, Jim Nonus; Second Vice-President, Mike Eubank, Third Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Historian, Jean L. Epperson; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

**BOARD ABSENT:** Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Coordinator-of-Research, Pam Keyes; Archivist (office vacant)

**ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT:** Jean L. Epperson; R. Dale Olson; Dr. Reginald Wilson

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:** Ron and Beth Austin; Mike Baily; Sheldon Kindall; David Pettus; Don and B.J. Peak; Richard and Kileen Prather; Norman and Marguerite Sachnik; Wil Zapalac

**CALL TO ORDER**

The President called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. following the usual gathering at 6:00 p.m. for refreshments. Members were reminded to contribute where possible to the refreshment fund.

**MINUTES**

Minutes stood as transmitted electronically; no corrections or additions.

**TREASURER**

Treasurer Jerry Eubank presented a written report showing a balance of \$2,184.30 as of this date.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Following introductory comments by Advisory Board Member R. Dale Olson, members were shown a videotape of an interview with Mr. Charles Zwiener and his wife conducted on December 20, 1992 by R. Dale Olson and Diane Olson in the Zwiener's Galveston home. The subject of the interview focused on the Zwiener's knowledge of the history of the Maison Rouge site at 1417 Harborside Drive, especially during the period of ownership of family member Douglas Zwiener.

## **DONATIONS TO ARCHIVE**

Member-at-Large Mike Baily of Brazoria presented for the Society's archive copies of historical documents obtained from the Rosenberg Library as follows: 1) Land Claim Bill for Pierre Bouet Lafitte, March 4, 1834 2) Field Notes for Florida Encyclopedia - the Story of Juan Gómez - regarding the death of the pirate Gasparilla's death. 3) *Life of Jean Lafitte, the Pirate of the Mexican Gulf*, from Littell's Living Age - No. 407 - 6 March, 1852, Part I

## **WINCHESTER FIREARMS EXPERT TO SIGN BOOKS**

Advisory Board Member R. Dale Olson reported that Winchester rifle historian George Madis will have a book signing November 29, 2003 in a new retail space owned by his son James Madis located at 21<sup>st</sup> and Strand. Some titles are: 1) *The Taking of Texas: A Documentary History* by Franklin Madis, Eakin Press, Austin, 2002; 2) *The Winchester Era* (1 of 1,000), by George Madis, Art and Reference House, Brownsboro, TX, 75756, 1984 3) *The Winchester Book* (1 of 1,000), by George Madis, Art and Reference House, Brownsboro, TX, 75756, 1985, 640 pp., 1,800 photos

## **RECENT BOOKS ON ENGLISH PIRATE AND SPANISH ARMADA VESSELS**

Historian and Advisory Board Member Jean L. Epperson offered for members' interest two books: 1) *The Black Ship: the Quest to Recover an English Pirate Ship and its Lost Treasure*, by Barry Clifford and Paul Perry, 1999, Headline Book Publishing 2) *The Lost Fleet: the Discovery of a Sunken Armada from the Golden Age of Piracy*, by Barry Clifford, 2002, Harper Collins Publishers

## **VIDEOTAPING OF LAFFITE SOCIETY MEMBERS**

First Vice-President and Program Chairman Jim Nonus suggested that members consider having a videotape made of the Galveston membership for the Society's archive.

## **OTHER HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS DONATED TO ARCHIVE**

Member-at-Large, researcher David Pettus contributed to the Society's archives a print-out on Coastal Independence Movements/Illegal Immigration Resumes/Adams-Onis Treaty 1819/Last Filibuster- Dr. James Long/ Legal, Controlled Immigration- Moses Austin

## **THIRTY "GOLD PIECES", PIRATE STYLE**

Member-at-Large Wil Zapalac renewed his membership to the Society by presenting to the Treasurer 30 "gold pieces" (\$30.00 U.S.), i.e., 30 dollars paid in one dollar coins, suitably couched in a leather, draw-string bag . . .

## **HOLIDAY PARTY**

Discussion held on plans for the up-coming Holiday party on December 14, 2003.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The President extended thanks to Jim Nonus, Program Chairman, for providing the video-tape player for this nights's presentation.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the general meeting of November 18, 2003 adjourned.

Submitted by,

**DOROTHY MCDONALD KARILANOVIC**  
Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
**THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**

\dmk:1-9-04

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2003**

**LAFFITE SOCIEY HOLIDAY PARTY  
BUCCANEER ROOM  
21<sup>ST</sup> AND STRAND  
GALVESTON, TEXAS**

**(No regular meeting held)**