



The Laffite Society Chronicles

Volume XXX Number 1
February 2015

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.

Board of Directors

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| President..... | Larry Porter |
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual Dues:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Student..... | \$15.00 |
| Senior (Over 65)..... | \$20.00 |
| Institution..... | \$20.00 |
| Individual..... | \$35.00 |
| Family..... | \$40.00 |
| Sustaining Member..... | \$100.00 |
| Sponsoring Member..... | \$100.00 |
| Life Membership (One Payment).... | \$300.00 |

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The Laffite Society
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<http://thelaffitesociety.com>

Editor's Page

Dan Cote
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Observations on Articles in This Issue

On the President's Page the depth of adventure in the Society is strongly portrayed.

Two graphic examples of the social and adventurous lives of Laffitens is given in the articles about the Christmas Party and the anniversary celebration of the war of 1812 in New Orleans. David Robert's photography helps us realize the fun we missed if we weren't there.

Secretary Dorothy Karilanovic has detailed the meetings from August 2014 to January 2015, so if you missed one, her details will bring you up-to-date.

Aya Katz presents a most interesting article on the laws and the US Constitution that changed, or could change, the way the Laffite navies operated.

Galveston, Oh Galveston, your past keeps coming on us. Joyce Zongrone writes about the comings and goings in early Galveston.

We think this issue will keep you reading for quite a while

Material Submission Notes

As an absolute last resort the editor will accept material that must be scanned or is in .PDF form. 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.

President's Page

By Larry Porter

Happy 2015! Another year, another great Christmas party and trek to New Orleans.

We were saddened this fall to lose one of our dearest friends, Jack Watson. Jack has been our stalwart for programming in these past few years. He has delivered an amazing array of talented and interesting speakers. He will be sorely missed. Lou Macbeth has graciously stepped up to take on program responsibility.

The Christmas party was especially fun this year as we found a new venue at the Lasker Inn. BOIs remember it as a one-time orphanage and the home of Morris Lasker whose son was a pioneer of modern advertising- the first MadMan! This year's celebration was dedicated to the memory of our friend Jack who was saluted with a rousing toast. I think he would have approved with that wry smile of his.

The Lasker Inn was sumptuously decorated in Christmas spirit and the bar was huge. Wine, Champaign and Sazerac flowed non-stop. Dinner was elegant and delicious. The clubby ambience gave a special warm and intimate feeling to party. A photo album is contained later in this chronicle. As usual, Dave Roberts was very busy, but also seen to be having his fair share of sazeracs.

2015 began with a trip to New Orleans to join in the celebrations commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. January 8th is the actual date of the battle, however there were numerous events taking place that entire week. A total of around 18 Laffitians made the trip and were joined by a few of our Louisiana members.

On the 8th, Thursday, there was a large ceremony in Jackson Square in the French Quarter packed with several hundred and including numerous dignitaries. The event was marked by the laying of wreaths at the Jackson statue by various heritage organizations. New Orleans mayor Landrieu and the British Ambassador to the U.S., Sir Peter Westmacott spoke of how the battle secured the U.S. claim to the Louisiana Purchase, set the road to our nation's *Manifest Destiny* and, at the same time, strengthened the bond between the two countries. The local Marine band played various patriotic tunes honoring both countries. Color guards in period dress from both nations posted colors. That night the anniversary was topped- off by a grand victory ball at Antoine's. The Brits had their own ball elsewhere.

Camped in a large assembly just west of the quarter was an army of reenactors. British and American forces were assembled near Chalmette for several mock battles on Saturday and Sunday. Concurrently, Nunez College in Chalmette held its 3rd Annual Symposium on the Battle of New Orleans beginning Friday through Saturday. Most of the Laffite group attended sessions which featured experts on the battle and the period. Our hero, Jack Davis, was the key note speaker on Saturday. His talk explained the contributions of the Laffites and Baratarians in the battle.

One of the takeaways from all this was to secure two more speakers for our own 3rd. annual symposium. The Laffite Seminar is now but 10 weeks away. The program is set and all the speakers have been engaged for the Saturday, April 18th date. As usual, we will begin with a welcome party the evening before at a place to be determined. Our publicity campaign will crank up starting this month with a "save the date" program notice going out soonest.

Mardi Gras is on the 17th of February. We will have our annual party at the Panama Hotel lobby courtesy of Jack McCoy. Mark the date and plan to bring your special Hors D'oeuvres to the party. The bar will function as usual with wine, champagne and sazeracs. You might also bring your favorite alcohol.

Lou has promised a great year of programs and we are reviewing several options for field trips, both near and far! Havana here we come? Well, how about Anahuac or Richmond and there is always our home town, Galveston!

Thanks to all our membership for your participation and contributions to our society.

Aarrgh!

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2014

Overview & Photos

By
David Roberts

Members and guests of Galveston's nationally known Laffite Society gathered at the beautifully decorated historical Lasker Inn for their annual holiday banquet.

Seen enjoying the social hour during which the Society's traditional Sazerac, along with other libation served were Islander's Betty and Ed Conner, Ann and Harry Forester, Marge and George Dersheimer, Diane and Richard Wonio, Jan Johnson , Pat Butler, Betsy Horner, Jim Milligam, Bill Haaga, and Sandra and Ray Stockhoff.

It was a perfect setting for the Laffite Society history buff's - fourteen decorated Christmas trees and live holiday music all in a historic setting. Among those enjoying the festive atmosphere were the society's veep Lou Beth Macbeth, Larry Jansen and his guest Billie Rinaldi, "Sazerac meister" Arthur Kennedy, Suzanne McClure, Linda and Onree Kuhn.

Seen catching up on the Society's plan for attending the 200th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans Symposium to be held in January was Galveston County Museum's Helen Mooty and her John Dickey, Ginny and Dave Roberts, Brenda and Jim Atchley, Dorothy Karilanovic, Sandra Rogers and Ed Jamison, Sybil and publisher/historian Don Marler in from Pineville, La., Carolyn and Rob Peterson in from Houston. Kathy Modzelewski and Jan Porter.

When members and guest were seated for the banquet Jeff Modzelewski led the traditional Lord Byron's "Corsairs Toast"

Prior to dinner President Larry Porter recognized R. Dale and Diane Olson and Jim Nonus as the founders of the Laffite Society twenty years ago. The response was a standing ovation by the members and guest including Ann Boyd, Esther and Ken Bingman, Gene Bindhammer, Rose Mary and Charlie Gordy, Jodie and Jim Bevill, Carol and Mel Trammel, Patricia Rumble, Fran and Terry Card, Jane Rushing, Pat and Jack McCoy and Gayle and Rex Reynolds and Patricia Holleman.

Special thanks were given to Lynette Haaga for arranging the entire spectacular evening.



Gene Bindhammer and Jan Johnson



Dale Olson is presented his "non-chicken" gourmet meal prepared by Lynette Haaga



Mel and Carol Trammel



Lou MacBeth, Ondree Kuhn, Dorothy Karilanovic, Diane Olson, Jody and Jim Bevill



Jim & Jody Bevill and Lou MacBeth



George and Marge Dersheimer, Sandra and Ray Stockhoff and Betsy Horner



Society Founders Jim Nonus, Dale Olson, Diane Olson and member Ann Boyd



Helen Mooty & John Dickey



President Larry Porter, Former President Ed Jamison, and Founder R. Dale Olson



Jim & Benda Atchley, Larry Porter and Ed Jamison



Jack & Patricia McCoy



Diane Wonio, Dale Olson and Michael Wonio



Jim Milligan and Pat Butler



Jim Nonus, Linda and Ondree Kuhy



Rob Peterson, Don Marler and Sybil Marler



Sandra Rogers and Ed Jamison



Larry Porter looks on as
Jeff Modzelewski leads the
"Corsairs Toast"



Ann and Harry Forester



Ed Conner, Carolyn Peterson, John Dickey and
Betty Conner



Ginny Roberts & Jane
Rushing



Kathy & Jeff Modzelewski



Bill and Lynette Haaga



Jan and Larry Porter



Terry and Fran Card

Laffite Society Minutes

Submitted by Dorothy (McD) Karilanovic
Secretary Emerita

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Meridian Retirement Center

BOARD PRESENT: President, Larry Porter; Second Vice-President (Membership), Kathy Modzelewski; Third Vice-President (Hospitality), Lynette Haaga; Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski; Acting Secretary, Dorothy (McDonald) Karilanovic; Editor, Dan Cote; Archivist, Dorothy Karilanovic; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Coordinator-of-Research, Pam Keyes; Technical Director, Root Choyce

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President (Programs) Jack Watson

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson

ADVISORY BOARD ABSENT: Pam Keyes; Robert Vogel; Dr. Reginald Wilson

The evening's event began at approximately 5:45 p.m. attended by some 90 persons, all nine tables in the banquet room of the Meridian Retirement Community filled. Members and guests enjoyed drinks and the customary ample repast provided by Lynette Haaga, with Ginny Roberts assisting; "celebrity bartender" Ed Conner at his post, newly recovering from knee surgery, and Laffite Society Member Jack McCoy at his side.

* * *

TWENTIETH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE LAFFITE SOCIETY: Treasurer Jeff Modzelewski gave a brief account of the August 8, 1994 founding of The Laffite Society, including input by Dale R. Olson who was co-founder with Laffite Society Member Jim Nonus. Charter members in attendance were acknowledged as well as the names of others and the spouses present of those deceased who had played an important role through the years in the development of the Society. Following Jeff's account of the anniversary, members were treated to servings of birthday cake. Dale Olson made a traditional wish and blew out the candles to a round of enthusiastic applause. **LOU GRAVES MACBETH, ACTING PROGRAM DIRECTOR:** President Larry Porter announced that Lou MacBeth will be standing in as Program Director for Jack Watson who is currently undergoing treatment for a serious illness.

SPECIAL POWER POINT PRESENTATION

DON BERNARDO DE GALVEZ: HERO OF THE AMERICAS (Highlights of His Life

By Bill Adriance

Acting Program Director Lou Graves MacBeth introduced the evening's speaker, Bill Adriance and his wife Ellen. Bill, a native of Galveston and a member of the Bernardo de Galvez chapter #1 of



the Sons of the American Revolution, is currently on a speaking circuit to raise funds for the creation and erection in Galveston of a 16-foot statue to honor Bernardo de Galvez as a true American Revolution hero

(bill.a@galvezstatue.org).

"Bernardo de Galvez was the Spanish governor of the Louisiana territory during the American Revolution and he sealed off the port of New Orleans so that British ships could not utilize the Mississippi River. Long before any Spanish declaration of war, General Galvez sent gunpowder, rifles, bullets, blankets, medicine and other supplies to the armies of General George Washington and General George Rogers Clark. He corresponded directly with

Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and Charles Henry Lee and General Galvez were instrumental in raising funds for the French and American victories at Yorktown. Once Spain entered the war against Great Britain in 1779, General Galvez raised an army in New Orleans and drove the British out of the Gulf of Mexico. His troops captured five British forts in the lower Mississippi Valley. He captured Mobile and Pensacola. At Pensacola, the capital of the British colony of West Florida, Galvez commanded a multinational army of over 7,000 black and white soldiers, who were born in Spain, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, and Venezuela. The siege of Pensacola was a decisive factor in the outcome of the Revolution; the longest and one of the most brilliantly executed battles of the war. In 1781, in a fleet of ships, Galvez, on his 12-gun ship *Galveztown*, began a siege against the British that lasted three months, eventually convincing the British to surrender Pensacola.”

Following the presentation, the speaker acknowledged historian Carolyn Crimin, Ph.D. for donating certain illustrations for his talk. He also mentioned that plans are underway in Spain to create a replica of Galvez’s ship *Galveztown* from wood salvaged from the many trees cut down on the island following hurricane IKE.

PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

President Larry Porter announced that popular lecturer and Laffite Society Member Betty Conner will speak September 9th on the causes of the war of 1812-1814 and the results of the war on Canada, France, and England.

Upcoming programs for October and November have been set up by Program Director Jack Watson.

The President mentioned that a couple of venues have been viewed for the annual Laffite Society holiday party.

Helen Mooty stated that flyers are available for the Jane Long event October 11, 2014.

Kathy Modzelewski mentioned two lectures to be given at Moody Garden on Saturday, August 16th, by Cindy Valor, Laffite Society Member and publisher of a newsletter on privateers and pirates.

Lou MacBeth will speak to the Bolivar Cultural Foundation on “*The Crew Left Behind*”, a recent program presented to the Laffite Society.

Laffite Society Member Jan Johnson thanked Lou MacBeth for speaking to a visiting group, “Road Scholar” on Laffite history.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The President reminded members of the 200th anniversary celebration on January 10, 2015 of the Battle of New Orleans of 1812 at which noted historian William C. “Jack” Davis, author of the currently definitive work on Laffite history (*The Pirates Laffite*) will speak.

Laffite Society Member Jan Porter invited members, who wish to do so, to send cards of encouragement and support for Jack Watson to the Porter home at 1 Hammock Trail, Ste. 500, Galveston, Texas, 77554. These will be collected, packaged and sent to Jack.

There being no further business of the Society for this date, August 12, 2014, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

BOARD PRESENT: President, Larry Porter; Second Vice-President (Membership), Kathy Modzelewski; Third Vice-President (Hospitality), Lynette Haaga; Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski; Acting Secretary, Dorothy (McDonald) Karilanovic; Editor, Dan Cote; Archivist, Dorothy Karilanovic; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Technical Director, Root Choyce

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President (Programs) Lou Graves MacBeth

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

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

The evening's event began at approximately 5:45 p.m. with the customary social period attended by 80-90 persons. Members enjoyed drinks and a sumptuous sideboard provided by Lynette Haaga with Ginny Roberts assisting; "celebrity bartender" Ed Conner at his post with Laffite Society Member Jan Porter assisting.

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES: Copies of the biennial August 2014 issue of *The Chronicles* were given out to those listed as members.

JACK WATSON

The President mentioned the untimely passing on September 1, 2014 of First Vice-President, Program Director Jack Watson, friend and valuable contributing member of the Society.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

THE WAR OF 1812; EFFECTS ON CANADA, ENGLAND AND THE U.S.

BY

BETTY CONNER



Betty Conner, Laffite Society Member, popular local historian, lecturer and world traveler, presented a well-researched narrative of the vitally important war of 1812-1815 between Britain and America, in which she had prepared an illustrated month-by-month graphic account of attempts by British forces to invade the American continent. In an intent to penetrate the heart of the country, beginning with coastal blockades on the East coast in 1807 and the impressment of men into the British navy, the British began moving their fighting units from New England down to the South, then up the Mississippi and over to the East to the swamplands of Louisiana where they were thrown back by Louisiana militias. The British regiments were thwarted by stops and starts due to poor planning and organization, rigid decision-making and misjudgment of the strong resistance and resilience of the Creole people of Louisiana resulting in a final struggle in 1815 known as the Battle of New Orleans. During this battle, in an agreement with the privateer Jean Laffite, General Andrew Jackson had accepted the aid of Laffite's men and armaments and the support of experienced cannoniers such as Dominique Youx, alleged brother of Jean and Pierre.

In August 1814, the British had burned the White House, and at the battle of Ft. McHenry, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write his poem *THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER* which became the country's national anthem. As a result of the conflict, the War of 1812-1815 brought about a closer relationship between America and Canada due to the assistance the Canadians gave to the struggle. Blockading of American ports by the British had prevented cotton imports, a further spur to growth which compelled America to begin a cotton-growing industry of its own. The British gave up the struggle to conquer the continent because of the impending conflict between Britain and France. As a result of the war, General Jackson's triumph in 1815, with the aid of Laffite and his men, enhanced his chances of becoming President. Unfortunately for Laffite, his cannons used in the fight were never returned, nor was he ever compensated financially for them, although for previous illegal activities he and his men were recommended for a pardon by the U. S. Government.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Co-Founder of the Society, Dale Olson mentioned a recent article for members' interest in "Scenes", in *The Galveston Daily News*, Sunday, September 7, 2014, describing the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of The Laffite Society on August 8, 1994.

Larry Porter reminded members again of the upcoming 200th Anniversary celebration in New Orleans of the Battle of New Orleans the first week in January 2015.

Thanks were extended to Laffite Society Editor, Dan Cote for his dedicated efforts in producing and publishing the Society's publication of the August, 2014 issue of *THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES*.

There being no further business of the day the meeting of September 9, 2014, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

Meridian Retirement Center

BOARD PRESENT: Larry Porter, President; 1st V-P, Lou MacBeth (Programs); 3rd V-P, Lynette Haaga (Hospitality); Ad Hoc, Ginny Roberts (Hospitality); "Celebrity Baristo", Ed Conner; Treasurer, Jeff Modzelewski; Acting Secretary & Archivist (Dorothy McD. Karilanovic); Editor, Dan Cote; Press Director, Dave Roberts

BOARD ABSENT: 2nd VP, Kathy Modzelewski (Membership); Technical Director, Root Choyce (Ed Jamison standing in); Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson

ADVISORY BOARD ABSENT: Pam Keyes; Kathy Modzelewski; R. Dale Olson; Robert Vogel; Dr. Reginald Wilson

Attended by approximately 80 persons, the meeting began at approximately 6:40 p.m. following the customary social period with food and drink provided by Hospitality Committee members Lynette Haaga, Ginny Roberts, and Ed Conner. Visitors welcomed: Frances Walker, Richard & Trish Zalesak

REMEMBERING JACK WATSON – SPECIAL RECOGNITION

President Larry Porter read to members a gracious letter of thanks from Cheryl Watson, wife of the late program chairman Jack Watson, in appreciation of the many cards and acts of condolence and the special words of praise from the President for Jack's valuable contributions to the Society and his unique personal qualities. As a special gesture of recognition, the President announced that the Society's third annual seminar April 17-19, 2015, will be dedicated to Jack.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The banquet venue chosen for the Society's holiday social on Sun., December 14, 2014, will be in The Lasker House, a restored Victorian Bed-and-Breakfast located at 16th and Avenue K, Galveston (one block south of Broadway).

The President handed out copies of the program describing presentations and speakers January 9 and 10, 2015 at the Third Annual Battle of New Orleans Historical Symposium, presented by The Louisiana Institute of Higher Education. Professor Ron Chapman of Nunez Community College will be the keynote speaker at the symposium Friday, January 8, 2015, and also at the third annual Laffite Society seminar at Texas A. & M University, Galveston, April 17 and 18, 2015.

ARCHIVES

At a meeting today with Dave Baca, Executive Director of the Texas A & M library at TAMUG, the President inquired about the procedures in place to classify, preserve and make available on line the documents that constitute the Society's archive. Dave Baca stated that he is currently revising job positions to accommodate the organization and classification of the Society's in-coming donations.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Program Chairman, Lou MacBeth, announced upcoming presentations, and encouraged members' participation in talks and research on the Laffite era: 1) Nov. 11: Rob Peterson, Laffite Soc. Member, on author Lyle Saxon; 2) Linda Kuhn, Laffite Society Member and environmental lawyer with Anadarko Oil, on "subsidence now and then in the Laffite era"; 3) an archeological update on the early 1800th C. Monterrey ship project re three ships found in the Gulf of Mexico; 4) Jim Nonus, Laffite Society Member, on "Laffite Art", in the spring of 2015; 5) Larry Porter on "Dominique Youx"; 6)

Lynette Haaga on 19th C. New Orleans menus and ship's fare; 7) Jeff Modzelewski on his Eng. translation of J. Rubio Mane's history *The Pirates Laffite*.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Lou MacBeth introduced tonight's speaker Aya Katz, linguist, lawyer, novelist, and primatologist, currently author of two books featuring Jean Laffite: *Theodosia and the Pirates* and *Theodosia and the Pirates; the War Against Spain*. Prior to her talk, Ms. Katz thanked long-time Laffite Society researcher and Advisory Board Member Pam Keyes of Miami, OK for recommending her as a speaker at the Society: *THE EFFECT OF THE CHANGING LAWS CONCERNING PRIVATEERING ON THE CAREER OF JEAN LAFFITE*



Ms. Katz presented a thoughtful, informative and well-researched talk on the differences between piracy and privateering and on "both the legal issues and the way privateering was presented in the press, so as to sully Jean Laffite's reputation and to close off any possible entry into respectable American society as a privateer in good standing" (program notes). In the Embargo Act of 1807, the government laid an embargo on all ships and vessels under the U.S. jurisdiction, which prevented the sale of U.S. goods. The Laffites took this opportunity to compensate for the ruined overseas trade by selling their prizes and cargo to a domestic market. Encumbered by changing U.S. laws in the 1820s, Laffite was

forced to end his career as a privateer, smuggler, and filibusterer, at his alleged death in 1823, as a commissioned officer in the Colombian navy. His once legitimate way of life under authorized Letters of Marque had become outlawed.

Following questions and response from the speaker, there being no further business of the meeting of October 14, 2014, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:53 p.m.

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

Meridian Retirement Center

BOARD PRESENT: Larry Porter (President); 1st V-P Lou MacBeth (Programs); 3rd V-P Lynette Haaga (Hospitality); Acting Secretary & Archivist Dorothy (McD.) Karilanovic; Press Director Dave Roberts; Technical Director Root Choyce

BOARD ABSENT: 2nd V-P Kathy Modzelewski (Membership); Treasurer Jeffrey Modzelewski; Parliamentarian Diane Olson

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson

ADVISORY BOARD ABSENT: Pam Keyes; Kathy Modzelewski; R. Dale Olson; Robert Vogel; Dr. Reginald Wilson

The meeting began at 6:40 p.m., with approximately 70 persons enjoying food and drink provided by hospitality committee members Lynette Haaga, Celebrity Bar Tender Ed Conner with Laffite Society Members Jack McCoy and Jan Porter assisting. Visitors welcomed were Mrs. Ola Gobert, James and Reyna Collura Kasper.

President Larry Porter called for a Pledge of Allegiance from members in honor of Veterans' (formerly Armistice) Day. Hospitality Chairman Lynette Haaga read to members a list of food items in the Menu planned for the Society's Holiday Banquet on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at The Lasker House, reminding members wishing to do so to leave their checks with her at tonight's meeting to insure a reservation. Larry announced again the arrangements for attending the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans event in New Orleans on January 9 and 10, 2015, and those pending for the Laffite Society Seminar at Texas A. & M. University, Galveston, in April, 2015, at which Jim Bevill will make a presentation.

PROGRAMS: Program Chairman Lou MacBeth announced the following speakers for the first quarter of 2015: *January 13, 2015: Larry Porter will give an overview of what was learned from the Battle of New Orleans event. * January 13, 2015: Also on this date, Lou MacBeth will speak briefly on *The Hunt for Laffite Treasure*. *February: An archaeological update on the early 1800 shipwreck (Laffite era) found about 178 miles southwest of Galveston (under the auspices of Monterrey Oil). *March: Kristopher Benson, a member of NOAA, will discuss sea levels present along the gulf coast during the Laffite era.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION (Part 1): *AUTHOR LYLE SAXON* By ROB PETERSON

In addition to his own research as a Laffite Society Member, Rob acknowledged other sources of information and inspiration from Members Jeff Modzelewski, Robert Vogel, and late Program Chairman Jack Watson. Rob begins with a chronological description of the life and times of spirited *bon vivant* news reporter, one time movie actor and book author Lyle Saxon, beginning with his birth in 1891 in Bellingham, WA and ending with his death in Louisiana in 1946. He presents a colorful description along with his impressions of Saxon's works written between 1922 and 1945: *(title ?)a fictionalized history of New Orleans (1922); *Father Mississippi* (1927); **Fabulous New Orleans* (1928); *Old Louisiana* (1929); **Laffite the Pirate* (1930); **Children of Strangers* (1937); **New Orleans City Guide*, a WPA project (1938); **Gumbo Ya-Ya* (1945).

Some have thought Saxon's "factual" accounts of Louisiana history to be of doubtful accuracy, no less so as in his account of Jean Laffite in his book *Laffite the Pirate*. As Rob states, quoted material about Laffite in a letter, alleged to be given by 18-year-old Esau Glaskock (sp.?) following a visit with his father to purchase slaves from the former, has been of unique interest to Laffite historians, but could never be authenticated as the letter could never be found.

Saxon shared the later years of his life with a long-time friend, Joe Gilmore, who had initiated him earlier into the often-unconventional life and customs of New Orleans. Following Saxon's death in 1946, a book by Fred Dreyer was written entitled *Friends of Joe Gilmore*.

(Part 2): *2014 VISIT TO THE TEMPLE* By Mike Riley, Tom Halko, Ted Daly, and Rob Peterson

In Part 2 of Rob's presentation, he showed slides of a boat trip he and fellow traveling companions, including Laffite Society Member Tom Halko, had made into the bayous of snake-infested south Louisiana in search of The Temple, formerly a landing point, where, possibly, there had been a shell hidden, where pirated contraband was off-loaded and sold to wealthy land owners. After a search of several areas and study of maps, including satellite ones, the group came upon what they believed to be The Temple, a barely visible stub of the southern tip of Barataria, 150 ft. in length, 20 ft. deep, and 2-3 feet high. Standing on the site in marsh grass a few feet above the bayou, while enjoying the exultation of discovery, Rob and his fellow adventurers felt they had at last accomplished their goal.

UPDATE ON LAFFITE SOCIETY WEBSITE

President Larry Porter announced that at a recent meeting Dave Baca, director of the TAMUG library had told him that certain Laffite Society documents, such as videos, *The Chronicles*, and others are being digitalized on the world-wide web to become available for universal research.

SEA SHANTY EXHIBIT

Laffite Society Member Michael Wonio said that this exhibit was currently being shown at Texas A. & M University at Galveston.

MEETING ADJOURNED

.....
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015

MERIDIAN TOWERS

BOARD PRESENT: Larry Porter (President); 1st V-P Lou Graves MacBeth (Programs); 2nd V-P Kathy Modzelewski; 3rd V-P Lynette Haaga (Hospitality); Acting Secretary & Archivist Dorothy (McD.) Karilanovic; Treasurer Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director Virginia Roberts; Technical Director Root

BOARD ABSENT: Parliamentarian Diane Olson

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Kathy Modzelewski

ADVISORY BOARD ABSENT: Jean L. Epperson; Pam Keyes; R. Dale Olson; Robert Vogel; Dr. Reginald Wilson

Following an opening signal on the bosun's whistle by Elissa mate Mike Wonio, the meeting began at 6:45 p.m. with approximately 70 persons engaging in food and drink provided by Hospitality Committee members Lynette Haaga, Celebrity Mixologist Ed Conner, with Laffite Society Members Jan Porter and Ginny Roberts assisting.

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laffite Society Member, author and popular speaker Jim Bevill expressed thanks and appreciation to all who worked to make the December 14, 2014 annual banquet a resounding success, prompting Larry Porter to say that the Society may hold next year's banquet in the same venue, The Lasker Inn at 1019 16th St. in Galveston.

Jim Bevill will present a talk on *Gunboat Diplomacy* Sunday, January 18, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. at The Seaport Museum in Galveston. According to Jim, the new Texas history museum (The Torch Collection) housed in the former Galveston Orphans' Home on 21st Street will open January 31, 2015.

From Program Chairman Lou MacBeth: 1) Tuesday February 10th, Amy Borgens of the Texas Historical Commission will speak to the Society on the Monterey project ship wrecks; 2) Tuesday March 10th, Robert Vogel, Laffite Society Member and long-time contributor to *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, will give a talk on the Laffite Study Group, the forerunner organization of The Laffite Society; Kris Benson of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, originally scheduled for our March meeting, will present on "sea level change impacts for Galveston" in May.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Laffite Society Member Ed Jamison talked with LSM at large Tom Halko who reported he had "recruited new members" to the Society.

MARDI GRAS PARTY

Larry reminded members of the annual Laffite Society "Fat Tuesday" party at The Panama Apts. February 17th, 6:00 p.m on the corner of 25th and Strand.

BOARD MEETING

The Society will have a Board meeting on Wednesday, 1-14-15.

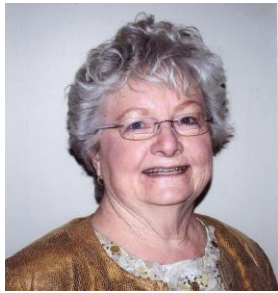
ANNIVERSARY EVENT IN NEW ORLEANS OF THE WAR OF 1812 By LARRY PORTER

President Larry Porter described events witnessed by members of the Laffite Society during their recent trip to New Orleans, accompanied by a short slide show. His presentation included the following colorful scenes of heroic persons General Andrew Jackson, British Admiralty officials, and important local statesmen such as attorney Edward Livingston, supporter and financier of outfitting operations for Pierre and Jean Laffite; traditional remembrances presented in ritual and the spoken word; wreath-laying events at Jackson Square and other sites; many dignitaries in attendance and costumed persons portraying dress and military adornments of the era; a visit of several thousand persons to Chalmette battlefield; local Jean Laffite enthusiasts; a Color Guard of 1812 members dressed in brilliant red uniforms, including many British participants; various societies presenting unique commemorative wreaths (the Laffite Society of Galveston plans to present its own at subsequent events); a viewing of the visiting British Ambassador; a 21-gun salute; an exhibit of historical artifacts at Nunez Community

College; talks presented at Nunez College by experts on the British Admiralty, global consequences of the causes and effects of the War, firearms used by both Brits and Americans; facts and personal remembrances of St. Bernard Parish; a participation by costumed Kentuckians and Tennesseans and Baratarian fighters in the battles; a presentation by Civil War historian William Jack C. Davis, author of *The Pirates Laffite* (2005) which Laffite Society members currently regard as a definitive work on the Laffites.

THE HUNT FOR LAFFITE'S TREASURE BY LOU MACBETH

Lou gave an entertaining narrative and slide presentation exploring the various treasure stories that have turned up over the generations on alleged treasure left by the Laffites. For her talk she researched and presented numerous treasure claims from diverse parts of the country – Florida, Delaware, Louisiana, Texas and others – as well as published works of books, poems and newspaper articles, local stories of pirate encounters and fabled treasure at The Three Tree oak mott on Galveston (according to Lou, some say the real treasure was the deceased Madelaine, Laffite's wife – hence, the namesake "Lake Madelaine" located nearby); and around the grounds of Jean Laffite's alleged house, the Maison Rouge, where it was said that two laborers had enriched themselves with treasure stolen from the site – a fallacious tale no less, according to Dale Olson, current owner of the property.



As Lou discerned from her research, almost all tales of treasure - "whether pirates, outlaws, burglars or just eccentrics – seem to begin with an OLD MAN who got a MAP when a boy, or from someone who finds the map". Often the stories – and that's all they are, Lou says, are accompanied by ghostly apparitions of pirates, Indians, or "women in flowing white gowns".

Lou leaves us with the following assurance and a quote: "You find stories of treasure hunters all up and down the Gulf Coast – from Mexico to Florida and even up the east coast and into the interior. They ALL have maps or stories of where Laffite's treasure is buried."

*"THE PIRATES' GOLD IS STILL AROUND
THE LEGENDS WILL NOT DIE
IN HOLES DUG DEEP WITHIN THE GROUND
THEIR TREASURE CHESTS STILL LIE"*

MEETING ADJOURNED

The Effect of the Changing Laws Concerning Privateering on the Career of Jean Laffite

by
Aya Katz

Today, very few people have a clear idea of what privateering is and how it differs from piracy, despite the fact that the United States constitution still has a provision for the issuing of letters of marque and reprisal. Many people think that the word "privateer" is a synonym for "pirate". But before the War of 1812 privateering was a respectable way of life, and this perception changed after the war. Jean Laffite, who had been both a smuggler and a privateer under a letter of marque from Cartagena, suffered considerably from a misperception that he was a pirate. The changing laws about the privately funded waging of war are the reason for the continued confusion on this issue.

The early years of the American republic had very few laws about the ways in which war and warfare were to be conducted, and the basic framework to which the government of the United States adhered was spelled out in the constitution.

From Article I, Section 8:

The Congress shall have the power ...

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions;

In the structure provided by the framers of the constitution, there was to be no permanent army of the United States, because a standing army was used by the British to harass the American colonists. For this reason, the constitution provided for armies to be raised as necessary, in times of war, but not to remain in existence in peacetime. On the other hand, there was to be a permanent Navy, and the militia was to be called up in times of need.

The Navy was not meant for war alone. It was a kind of maritime police force that saw to it that order was maintained on the high seas, and also served an ancillary function to help with tax collection on imports. That is why it was to remain standing even in times of peace, but it was meant to be a small force, not an armada poised for conquest. On the other hand, in times of war, letters of marque would be granted to private ship owners and captains, so that they might help with the war effort, again at very little cost to the citizens of the United States, as the privateer was to make his profit at the expense of the enemy.

The constitution was written to limit the powers of the government and not the people, and so any power not granted to the Federal government was deemed to have been reserved to states, severally, and if not claimed by any given state, then to the people of that state. This meant, among other things, that while

the executive branch of the Federal government could not set out to war against any foreign state or principality without a formal declaration of war approved by Congress, the individual citizens of the United States had every right so to do, unless, of course, their state constitutions or laws prohibited them from doing so.

Given that this was the state of affairs, American privateers, and also foreign privateers operating within American territorial waters, could have received authorization for their acts of war by getting a letter of marque issued to them by the United States government, when it was officially at war with some foreign power, or by having a letter of marque from a foreign power, even when the United States was not at war with anyone.

Before the first neutrality act was signed, it was common for American privateers to have letters of marque issued to them by the government of France and to go after British ships when France was at war with Britain, even though the United States was *not* at war with Britain. Britain complained about this to the government of the United States, and as a capitulation to the British demand that this be a precondition to the signing of the Jay Treaty, Congress passed the very first neutrality act, and it went into effect in 1794. Despite the passage of the Neutrality Act, many Americans continued with privateering and filibustering, as it was not they who had wanted the law passed: it was the British who campaigned for this law to be passed in the United States.

The Neutrality Act of 1794 did not concern itself only with privateers at sea, but also with filibusters on land. And it did not limit itself to aggressions against Britain and its colonies. It stated: "If any person shall within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States begin or set on foot or provide or prepare the means for any military expedition or enterprise...against the territory or dominions of any foreign prince or state of whom the United States was at peace that person will be guilty of a misdemeanor." The act also set a three-mile territorial limit at sea and forbade foreign war vessels from outfitting in U.S. waters. It was for violating this law that Aaron Burr was convicted, when he was acquitted of the charge of treason against the United States. Because he was trying to liberate territories belonging to Spain when Spain and the United States were not officially at war, Burr was found guilty of a misdemeanor.

One of the features of the Neutrality Act as it was first promulgated was that it allowed for such private wars to be waged outside the jurisdiction or territories of the United States. It was sometimes interpreted to apply to American citizens, but not to foreigners.

While the constitution granted Congress the power to define piracy, that term was left undefined by legislation, and its meaning was established by case law. The difference between a pirate and a privateer was understood at common law. Piracy was an act of robbery or criminal violence at sea (United States v. Smith, 1820). A privateer was someone who operated lawfully against an enemy vessel under a letter of marque. Jean Laffite was never a pirate, but he did at times violate other laws pertaining to taxation and limitations on free trade. Paradoxically, it was those other laws that made his business the most profitable.

When Jean and Pierre Laffite first showed up in American territorial waters, they were acting as neither pirates nor privateers. They were smugglers. And in order to understand why their services as smugglers were very much welcomed by the people of New Orleans, we have to look to the events leading up to the Embargo Act of 1807.

In the infancy of the American republic, there had been much debate as to how war was to be financed. Alexander Hamilton favored deficit spending and high duties on luxury items. As Secretary of the Treasury, he founded the Revenue Cutter Service in 1790, whose main task was to enforce duties on enumerated items, including wines, spirits, coffee and tea. Taxes on these items, though they applied to the goods in question, were in fact taxes on the American people, and anyone who could get those items without the added tax wished to do so. So there was already a place for smugglers in the grand scheme of things very early in the life of a republic that rose out of a popular uprising against a tax on tea.

However, when Thomas Jefferson came to power, he wanted to make sure that the United States would stay out of war, and instead of recommending high duties on goods in order to finance a strong Navy, he asked Congress to pass the Embargo Act of 1807. Under the Embargo Act, all commerce with other countries was outlawed. Instead of protecting American vessels at sea, the Navy's job was to make sure they did not go anywhere or conduct business. While this may have seemed like a good idea, it was a disaster for merchants, ship owners, manufacturers, planters and anybody who wanted to buy imported goods or sell raw materials to other countries. In short, Americans of all walks of life were severely hampered by the Embargo Act, whether as producers or consumers, buyers or sellers.

When the Laffites opened up shop in Barataria, the people of New Orleans were deeply grateful for their services as purveyors of smuggled goods. There was very little compunction for ordinary people about this. It was not felt that they were doing anything wrong by evading a law that everyone, including all perfectly decent and well-behaved people from every social stratum, abhorred.

While the Laffites were breaking the law, so was everyone who bought from them, and most people did not regard these transactions as at all criminal in nature. In time, the Embargo Act was replaced by the Non-Intercourse Act of 1809, which relaxed restrictions on trade with the entire world, but still made trading with Britain and France illegal. The law was largely unenforceable, but both the Revenue Cutter Service and the Navy were charged with enforcing it, anyway, and this was a thankless job. Early clashes by the Laffites with the agents of law enforcement in the United States, the customs service and the Navy, were centered on evasion of laws concerning taxes on imports and restrictions on trade.

On November 11, 1811 the Republic of Cartagena de las Indias was founded through a rebellion against Spain. This gave Jean Laffite the opportunity in 1812 of obtaining a letter of marque from Cartagena to pillage Spanish vessels. When the War of 1812 broke out, Jean Laffite was a legitimate privateer as well as a smuggler. And in fact, up to that point, nobody in the American judicial system had accused him of being a pirate.

At the start of the war, the American Navy, which had heretofore been deployed mostly on small peace-keeping missions and to enforce customs laws and embargoes, was unprepared for serious battles at sea. But the privateers operating in and around American territorial waters were ready. They had been doing battle with enemy vessels as part of their stock in trade; they had seasoned sailors and cannoneers that had seen action and lived to tell the tale. The Baratarian privateers under Jean Laffite were among these. But there were still standing orders to get rid of them, as they were violating laws about imports and exports. Commodore Patterson of the United States Navy took his task of breaking up smuggling rings much more seriously than his oath to defend the United States from a foreign invader.

That is why, when Jean Laffite was contacted by the British in September of 1814 to secure his assistance in their venture of re-taking their colonies, and Laffite sent word to the Americans about what

was going, Patterson chose to attack the Baratarians, rather than to defend Ft. Bowyer from the British force that he knew was coming. His confiscation of property and ships was not used in the manner of immediate requisition in order to do battle with the enemy, but the goods were sold at auction, eventually to raise money to pay Patterson for his work.

Meanwhile, during the lead up to the Battle of New Orleans and throughout the war until peace was signed, the confiscated privateering ships were kept out of commission, so that neither the Americans nor their Baratarian allies could use them against the British.

It is telling that Patterson took chocolate and tobacco, silk and gold from the Baratarian storehouses, items that could be of no use in battle, but he somehow neglected to get flint and gunpowder, which Laffite was able to provide to the American forces under General Jackson as a willing donation for the benefit of the war effort.

There were no American naval victories under Patterson's command against the British, and the Battle of Lake Borgne for which he was responsible was a terrible disaster. The Baratarian volunteers, including Jean and Pierre Laffite and Dominique You and Renato Beluche, and the artillery, gunpowder and flints that they provided, were indispensable to the American victory. That these were donations from the private sector, and seasoned volunteers rather than conscripts, is deeply significant in view of the legal history of how war was financed in the early American republic.

Governor Claiborne may have referred to the Baratarians as “banditti”, but their only act of banditry was to flaunt the laws that restricted free trade, taxed tea and coffee and cloth and spirits, and by acting as privateers against enemy ships. They had never been in the business of robbing Americans, and they contributed freely what the government was not able to provide for the war effort.

After the Battle of New Orleans, the Laffite contribution was briefly acknowledged and then just as quickly forgotten. The confiscated ships were not returned, the looted items were never paid for. No restitution was made. Patterson was allowed to profit from the government raid.

And over time, Jean Laffite came to be known in official records and in historical accounts as a pirate. Some might argue that this was a misunderstanding of his situation and the facts that surrounded his operation at Barataria and later at Galveston. But in fact, Laffite may have been just one of many victims of a historical trend that slowly but surely eradicated privateering as an honorable profession.

Peace was signed with the British, and despite the resounding success of the American side at the Battle of New Orleans, the Treaty of Ghent was not on favorable terms to the United States. The borders were returned to the status quo ante, there was no provision for British reparations for the atrocities committed at the Sack of Hampton nor for the damage incurred during the burning of Washington. The Americans still remained indebted to a British bank for the payment they owed on the Louisiana purchase and which came due in 1818, precipitating the Panic of 1819.

Jean Laffite was still a privateer for Cartagena, but he did not have his ships, and when on December 6, 1815 Pablo Morillo sacked and burned and returned the city to Spanish dominion, Laffite could do nothing to defend it, and he thereby lost his legitimate privateering license. He had chosen to stay and help defend the United States, rather than sail to Cartagena with his ships when he heard the Patterson-Ross raid was underway. Writing about this to President Madison on December 27, 1815, Laffite still

hoped for some word from the President, which would allow him to continue to serve as a privateer in the United States.

When all hope of that disappeared, he founded a new colony on Galveston Island and began equipping privateers against Spain under commissions and letters of marque issued by his own government. The *Le Brave* incident is cited by many as the point at which Laffite became known as a pirate. A ship by the name of *Le Brave*, owned by Laffite and captained by one DesFarges, attacked a Spanish vessel named the *Filomena* and was intercepted by an American navy vessel within American territorial waters while carrying away its prize. Was this an act of piracy? By which legal definition?

The United States was taking upon itself the defense of a foreign vessel using its naval forces. Possibly this was because they did not take Laffite's right to issue letters of marque from Galveston seriously. What was the source of his authority? But at the the same time as this happened to the Laffite operation, many American privateers were suffering a similar fate, due to a tightening of the laws against the private waging of war. The Neutrality Act of 1817 stiffened the penalties against people who fought against countries not at war with the United States, and from a mere misdemeanor, an act of independent privateering or filibustering now carried a penalty of three years imprisonment and a three thousand dollar fine. Americans acting under privateering licenses from South American countries newly liberated from Spain could get into big trouble.

The original intent of the founders as expressed in the constitution was slowly fading, with the disbanding of private maritime forces and an investment in a career Navy equipped to fight expansive territorial wars and not just to enforce customs laws or to prevent robbery at sea. Eventually, the militia was discarded in favor of a standing army. Not only was the United States doing this at home, but like the British before them, they were pressuring their allies to adopt the same system.

When Jean Laffite disbanded his operation in Galveston and went to seek employment in Simon Bolivar's Gran Colombia, which had recently re-liberated Cartagena from Spain, it was as a commissioned naval officer and not a privateer. This was not by choice. Under pressure from the United States, Bolivar had made privateering illegal, nationalized all the privateering vessels, and granted naval commissions to their captains. Jean Laffite was now a lowly employee of the Colombian government.

Given this historical development and the shifting concept of legitimacy, it is not surprising that the average person today, and even the average historian, may not consider the legal difference between a privateer and a pirate to be significant. The words are used almost interchangeably, with pirate having a slightly more pejorative and colloquial usage, but without any real difference in denotative meaning. To Jean Laffite, the difference between a privateer and a pirate was like the difference between right and wrong. But his cultural legacy in today's public consciousness is often seen as that of a "benevolent pirate." Few can conceive of a legitimate privateer.

By the time Jean Laffite disappeared from the historical record in 1823, whether through death in battle at sea as recorded in the *Gaceta Cartagena*, or by some other means, he was already not a privateer. He was a commissioned naval officer and a government employee. What happened to him has happened to all of us. If an American today wants to serve his country on board ship, he must join the Navy or the Coast Guard or the Marines. Americans are forbidden to wage war privately under the very stiff penalties of the latest Neutrality Act. Privateering as a profession has entirely disappeared.

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THE NEW ORLEANS SYMPOSIUM ON THE WAR OF 1812

Overview and Photos

by
David Roberts

On hand for the annual celebration of the American Victory at Chalmette during the war of 1812 were fifteen Society members from Galveston and Louisiana – being the 200th anniversary of the historic battle made it extra special.

Some members arrived on January 8th to observe the annual wreath laying at General Jackson's statue and a reading of Jackson's call to arms. Dignitaries present included the Lt Governor and other civic leaders.

The Marine Corps band provided a variety of music including period tunes, patriotic marches and even New Orleans jazz. The Jackson Square event was concluded with a booming artillery salute.

The following day the Louisiana Institute of Higher Learning conducted a two-day Battle of New Orleans historical symposium in Chalmette at the Nunez Community College auditorium located on the former battlefield. The first presenter, Ron Chapman (slated to be a speaker at the Laffite Society Seminar in April), discussed the battle in full. Other speakers covered the Battle of Lake Borgne, Andrew Jackson, weaponry used in the battle, the impact on American history, Kentuckians and Tennesseans in the battle, free people of color, other aspects of the battle second day of the symposium the key note address "The Pirates Laffite and the British Invasion of Louisiana" was given by Laffite Society member W.C. (Jack) Davis. He spoke on the actions of Jean and Pierre Laffite immediately before, during and after the British invasion of 1814-1815 and the Battle of New Orleans. During both days of the symposium, battle reenactments took place on the actual battlefield in Chalmette..

During the stay in New Orleans most members making the trip stayed in the "Quarter" enjoying sazeracs and local cuisine.

Those Laffite Society members that made the trip from Galveston were President Larry Porter and wife, Jan, Ed Jamison and Sandra Rodgers, Dave and Ginny Roberts, Ed and Betty Conner, Jim Nonus, Mike and Diane Wonio, Diane Burkett and Trish Rumble. Members Ton Halko and Ted Daly from Lafitte, LA were also in attendance.



USMC BAND



MILITARY COMMANDER RE-ENACTORS



COLOR GUARD IN PERIOD DRESS



ED JAMISON, BARATARIAN -
& LARRY PORTER



DR. BOB WETTEMAN
U.S AIR FORCE



EDDIE PRICE



KEY NOTER W.C. "JACK" DAVIS



MAYOR LANDIEU



BRITISH AMBASSADOR



PREPARING HOWITZERS FOR 21-GUN SALUTE



SMOKE FROM HOWITZERS, 21-GUN SALUTE



DAVE & GINNY ROBERTS, BETTY & ED CONNER, LARRY & JAN PORTER, SANDRA RODGERS & ED JAMISON



RON CHAPMAN DESCRIBES THE BATTLE



WILLIAM GRIFFIN DISCUSSES BRITISH EXPLOITS



JACK DAVIS & SOCIETY MEMBERS



LARRY PORTER & KEY NOTE SPEAKER JACK DAVIS



BARATARIANS RE-ENACTORS ON THE CHALMETTE BATTLEFIELD



RE-ENACTORS IN ACTION

Galveston's Forefathers

By
Joyce Zongrone

Galveston's forefathers, the first European settlers to step foot on the island, were pirates led by none other than the notorious privateer and corsair, Jean Laffite. Laffite arrived in Galveston after a resounding victory at the Battle of New Orleans, where he fought alongside General Andrew Jackson in 1815. The hero of the Battle of New Orleans usurped control of Galveston in April 1817 from French pirate Louis Aury. Aury's reign as resident commissioner lasted only 8 months from the time Jose Manuel de Herrera, a priest and Mexican rebel envoy, proclaimed Galveston a port of the Mexican republic in September 1816.

The pirate colony was the first permanent settlement in Galveston and home to more than 1000 residents. By 1821, it was the second largest city in Texas and also the center of illegal commerce and slave trading on the Gulf Coast.

Laffite built his personal residence on what is now Harborside Dr (formerly Water St) between 14th and 15th Streets. His original home site was the first substantial home ever built in Galveston. It was painted red, called Maison Rouge, and was said to have been luxuriously furnished with booty from captured ships. Surrounded by a ditch, it was outfitted with four canons; one was placed on the upper floor for firing on ships in the harbor, making the home a veritable fortress. Laffite burned it and the entire encampment when he left in 1820. Fifty years later, in 1870, sea captain F.W. Hendricks built a home on this site, reportedly on top of the old cellar and foundations of Lafitte's mansion. This structure, known locally as Hendricks Castle or The House of Twelve Gables, was demolished in the 1950s, but the concrete arches and the staircase, still visible today, could date back to the original 1817 structure.

Laffite, along with Jim Bowie, may well have been one of history's first money launderers. During 1817, he swapped contraband goods from looted Spanish galleons for furs he obtained from traders from the interior of Texas. The legal furs were later sold in Jamaica, Martinique and other American ports.

James Bowie, of Alamo fame, slave-traded with Laffite. The Gulf Coast of early Texas was the largest slave market in the new world. In 1818, Bowie and his brother Rezin partnered with Laffite in illegally importing slaves by smuggling them from Texas, which was not part of the United States. The U.S. prohibited international [slave trade](#) in 1808, but internal slave-trading continued and the slave population would eventually peak at four million before abolition. The Bowies bought slaves from Laffite in lots of 40 at a time, paid one silver dollar per pound, brought them to Louisiana and informed Customs Inspectors of the whereabouts of those slaves. Customs then sold the slaves at auction for \$500, giving the Bowies a \$250 informant fee. Since the Bowies only paid Laffite \$150 per slave, they initially made \$100 on each slave. They then resold them, away from the coastal area, for \$1000, making \$1100 on a \$150

investment. Laffite and the Bowie were probably America's first money launderers, cleverly transforming the proceeds of their crimes into legitimate money and assets.