

The Laffite Study Group Newsletter

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The Laffite Study Group was organized in 1975 for the purpose of uniting persons interested in Jean Laffite's role in American history, literature and folklore. Membership in the LSG is open to all. Annual dues are \$10.00 for individuals and institutions. Applications for membership should be addressed to: Secretary-Treasurer, Laffite Study Group, 2570 Kevin Lane, Houston, Texas 77043.

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THE LAFFITE NETWORK

The Louisiana State Archives has moved into the new facility at 3851 Essen Lane in Baton Rouge. The new archives building was dedicated on 24 August 1987. The library and research room is now open.

Piracy continues to be a problem in West African waters. The March 1987 issue of the U.S. Naval Institute **Proceedings** reports that in May 1986, a French merchantman was attacked by about fifty pirates in Freetown harbor, Sierra Leone. More than half of all reported cases of piracy now occur in Nigerian waters, where the government has imposed a 1800-0600 curfew for unauthorized craft in harbor areas.

The annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association will be 3-5 March 1988 in Austin.

LAFFITE MATERIALS IN THE ROSENBERG LIBRARY

Galveston's Rosenberg Library, which opened in 1904, has one of the oldest historical collections in the state. The Galveston and Texas History Center contains manuscripts, maps, photographs, pamphlets, newspapers and books. Among the library's archival holdings is the Jean Laffite Collection, described below.

Jean Laffite Collection (#76-0007)

Box 1, file folder 1	-	Research by Robert C. Vogel
Box 1, file folder 2	-	Research by John L. Howells
Box 1, file folder 3	-	The Buccaneer (book)
Box 1, file folder 4	-	Journal of Jean Laffite (photocopy)
Box 1, file folder 5	-	Story of Jean and Pierre Lafitte
Box 1, file folder 6	-	Reprint of an article
Box 2, file folder 1	-	Information from James Campbell
Box 2, file folder 2	-	Items signed by Laffite
Box 2, file folder 3	-	Correspondence re: Jean Laffite
Box 2, file folder 4	-	Newspaper clippings
Box 2, file folder 5	-	Newspaper clippings
Box 2, file folder 6	-	Printed articles
Box 2, file folder 7	-	Correspondence between Patten and Faye re: Laffite
Box 2, file folder 8	-	Notes on Laffite bibliography
Box 2, file folder 9	-	"Life of Jean Laffite" by Wm. Bollaert
Box 2, file folder 10	-	Laffite bibliography
Box 2, file folder 11	-	Correspondence concerning Laffite bibliography

The Rosenberg Library is the headquarters of the Galveston County Library System. The Galveston and Texas History Center is open to the public for research Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is closed Christmas Day, most national holidays and San Jacinto Day. For more information, contact: Jane A. Kenamore, Head, Special Collections, The Rosenberg Library, 2310 Sealy, Galveston, TX 77550 (409/763-8854).

DID YOU KNOW?

. . . that Susana Bosque (1796-1881), Louisiana Governor William C. C. Claiborne's third wife, was married to the attorney John R. Grymes (1786-1854) in 1822? Grymes was the federal district attorney who filed charges against Pierre and Jean Laffite for smuggling in 1813. In 1814-1815, Grymes and his law partners Edward Livingston and Pierre Louis Morel were retained by the Laffites to defend the Baratarians in federal court. (See: Jane

L. DeGrummond, "Cayetana Susana Bosque y Fanqui, 'A Notable Woman,'" in *Louisiana History* 23 (1982), pp. 277-294.)

. . . that of the 157 "Laffite" households listed in *An Atlas of Louisiana Surnames of French and Spanish Origin* by Robert C. West (Baton Rouge: Geoscience Publications, 1986), most are in Texas; more than two-thirds of the Louisiana Lafittes reside in northwestern Louisiana.

. . . that Campbell's Bayou in Galveston County, Texas, is named for James Campbell (c. 1786-1856), an associate of Jean Laffite? Campbell, a native of Derry County in Ireland, was a bosun's mate in the American navy during the War of 1812 and afterwards turned to privateering. He later settled down in Texas as a colonist with Stephen F. Austin.

. . . that Governor Claiborne's proclamation of 24 November 1813, offering \$500 reward for Jean Laffite, describes Laffite as being "about five feet ten inches high; stout made; about thirty six years of age, slightly pitted with the small pox; has brown hair and black eyes," a Frenchman with a speech impediment who speaks "tolerably good" English?

. . . that the first novel featuring Jean Laffite as its central character was published in 1827 by an anonymous author under the title, *Lafitte; or, The Baratarian Chief*? The book was reprinted in 1828, 1830, 1834 and 1838.

. . . that James McKay McIntosh, author of "A Visit to Lafitte" (*Knickerbocker*, March 1847), was the half-brother of the novelist Maria Jane McIntosh (1803-1878)? Miss McIntosh, a native of Sunbury, GA, moved to New York City in 1835 to live with her half-brother, a naval officer. When the family fortune evaporated in the panic of 1837, she turned to writing moralistic children's stories and sentimental religious fiction.

. . . that James Madison, "father" of the U.S. Constitution, was also the "father" of covert-action operations? Madison administration policy toward Spanish America was Reaganesque in regard to filibustering. Madison helped to hatch the West Florida "revolution" in 1810 and later perfected the technique of "plausible deniability" in the East Floirda during the Amelia Island crisis.

. . . that the resume of Dr. Jack D. L. Holmes, President of the Laffite Study Group since 1980, includes a knighthood? Dr. Holmes is Cruz de Caballero in the Spanish Order of Isabel la Catolica, awarded in 1979 in recognition of his contributions to scholarship in Latin American history. Sir Jack is retired professor of history at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and recently completed a stint as scholar-in-residence at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. His bibliography includes at least 37 books and 140 journal articles.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Galveston: A History by David C. McComb. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1986.

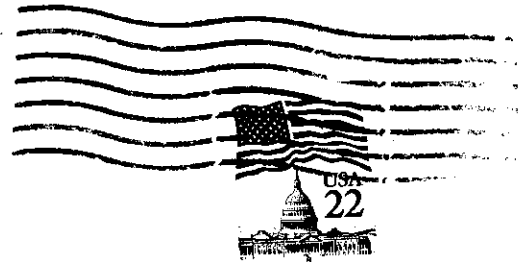
Grace King: A Southern Destiny by Robert Bush. Baton Rouge and London: Louisiana State University Press, 1983.

Hurricanes of the Mississippi Gulf Coast: 1717 to Present by Charles L. Sullivan. Gulf Publishing Company - the Sun Herald, Biloxi, Mississippi. Autographed copies available for \$16.00 from Charles L. Sullivan, P. O. Box 142, Perkinston, MS 39573.

Pirates on the Chesapeake: Being a True History of Pirates, Picaroons, and Raiders on Chesapeake Bay, 1610-1807 by Donald G. Shomette. Centerville, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1985.

The **Laffite Study Group Newsletter** is published four times a year in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Correspondence, contributions, books for review and all editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, LSG Newsletter, P. O. Box 44, Cottage Grove, MN 55016.

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