



The Laffite Society Chronicles

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THE EDITOR'S PAGE

DON C. MARLER

Judging by the field trips made by Laffite Society members in the last few months and the enthusiasm for more such trips the Society seems to be live and well. These trips are a wonderful way to add meaning, structure and productivity to a vacation. Reports of the trips to New Orleans and Yucatan are included in this issue of the *Laffite Society Chronicles*.

The last issue of *The Chronicles*, my first as editor, was tinged with anxiety over the paucity of material available for publication. I had been warned that it was a feast or famine world I was entering. Happily, the feast is on as we now have enough material for a full spring issue.

The Chronicles are increasingly referenced in scholarly journals. To facilitate this activity, pages in *The Chronicles* will now be numbered.

The Chronicles are, as has been noted before, the main medium for communicating with members who cannot attend meetings. Increasingly, however, we are receiving more electronic communication from non-members who are interested in the society and its activities but who do not have access to the *Chronicles*. Member

Mike Eubanks has taken on the task of maintaining our webpage which is critical to electronic communication -- see the Bulletin Board for the address.

How to submit materials:

We will accept items submitted for publication consideration in any medium and any form. However, an electronic method makes the task easier. We use a Macintosh computer capable of handling 3 1/2 inch disks, compact disks and Zip disks. We use Microsoft Word as a word processor. This computer is capable of converting most IBM compatible programs to Word.

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE AUTOMATIC FOOTNOTE FEATURE and DO NOT USE AUTOMATIC HEADERS/FOOTERS OR AUTOMATIC PAGE NUMBERS. The material can be transmitted by sending the disk or by email. Typed manuscripts can be sent by fax or snail mail.

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Stanley Faye and Jean Laffite

Jean L. Epperson

Stanley Faye was a prolific researcher and writer about early nineteenth century pirates and privateers in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. He once wrote a nonfiction manuscript, *Privateers of the Gulf*, that he could not get published, so he tried to convert it to fiction.¹ It was so loaded with historical facts and details that no publisher of fiction would print it. The main character was named John Lafitte who confessed that he was a native Spaniard born in Orduna, Spain. A copy of the unpublished manuscript was given to Faye's friend, J. Frank Dobie, who scoffed at the idea that Laffite was portrayed as a Spaniard.² Never published, the manuscript formed the basis for many scholarly articles published later in the *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, and ended up in the Center for American History at the University of Texas Libraries in Austin.³

Oddly enough, considering his intense interest in the Gulf and the Caribbean, Faye was not from the South. He was born July 31, 1886 in Aurora, Illinois, the son of a well known newspaper editor, Charles Montrose Faye, of the *Aurora Daily News* and the *Chicago Daily News*. His mother's family was also in the newspaper business. Uncle O. B. Knickerbocker was the first publisher of the *Weekly Aurora Beacon* when it was revived in 1857. Following in the footsteps of his family, Stanley became the historical editor of the *Beacon-News* in April 1947.⁴

Educated at the University of Chicago and in France, Stanley began his working career as a reporter for the *Chicago Journal*. He was department editor and music critic on the *Chicago Daily News*, and assistant editor of the *Musical Leader*. Stanley was also a researcher and writer for various historical organizations, in Arkansas, Illinois, Florida and Louisiana.⁵ Some of the lengthy articles he wrote were intended to be books but discouraged by

his first attempts to publish, he settled for publication in prestigious historical journals. As far as currently known none of his literary efforts were ever published in book form.

Thirteen articles were authored or edited by Stanley Faye for the *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, Baton Rouge, between October 1939 and July 1944. Of the thirteen, the following were devoted to privateers and pirates:

1. "Privateersmen of the Gulf and Their Prizes" Vol. 22, Oct. 1939
2. "Types of Privateer Vessels, Their Armament and Their Flags in the Gulf of Mexico" Vol. 23 1940
3. "Privateers of Guadeloupe and Their Establishment in Barataria" Vol. 23 April 1940
4. "The Great Stroke of Pierre Laffite" Vol. 23 July 1940
5. "Commodore Aury" Vol. 24 July 1941

Privateers of the Gulf was finished in August 1928 by Faye and sent to prospective publishers. The four hundred twenty nine page manuscript exhibits a masterly understanding of the political machinations surrounding the issues and inner relations of the United States, France, Spain and England concerning trade and privateering in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. *Privateers*, first written as nonfiction, was rejected by publishers during the 1930s, frustrating Faye so that he decided to insert a chapter of fiction (Chapter 19) and style the prospective book fiction.⁶ This ploy didn't help sell the manuscript either.

J. Frank Dobie, in Texas, was working on a manuscript for his forthcoming book, *Coronado's Children*, in which he planned to include a chapter on Jean Laffite. After reading an article in the *Yale Review* of 1928 about Jean Laffite, Dobie contacted Faye the author. A

correspondence and friendship developed between the two. Dobie's manuscript was published in 1931 but Faye still had not found a publisher.⁷

Discouraged with efforts to get the *Privateers* manuscript published, Faye sent a copy to J. Frank Dobie saying in a letter that Dobie would perhaps appreciate it.⁸ Mr. and Mrs. Dobie donated this copy to the Barker History Library on September 22, 1943. It is not known where the original manuscript is or even if it still exists.

Faye depicts John Lafitte in *Privateers* as the foremost citizen of New Orleans, the superior in intellect and ability to his elder brother Pierre. Twelve years later when *The Great Stroke of Pierre Lafitte* was published in the *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, Pierre is depicted with the brains and the ability. Further research and critical thinking apparently reversed Faye's opinion of the brothers.

John Lafitte is the main character of *Privateers* and almost every chapter ends with a mention of him, but actually not a great deal of information is forthcoming about his life. One little known detail revealed that the Laffites told the Spanish in New Orleans that they were natives of Spain born in Orduna, in the Basque Provinces high in the Cantabrian Alps of a Spanish mother and a French father. They asked for pardons from the king for their crimes against the Spanish.⁹ Was this story true or did they tell their Spanish spy masters this in order to gain their confidence and extract information and money from them? Who knows, but it has been noted that even while Jean and Pierre were Spanish spies their ships were pillaging Spanish shipping. Jean had sworn in 1813 that he was 32 years old and was born in Bordeaux, France.¹⁰

Another interesting passage in *Privateers* on flags states that the flag of Cartagena was first flown by Dominique You on his schooner *El Tigre* off the pass of Nautle. An early flag of Mexico of blue and white checkerboard design was first utilized by Job Northrupt sailing off the coast of Pensacola. This flag was designed by the Mexican Minister Juan Pablo Anaya. It was soon adopted by the Baratarians and flown at their mastheads. This

information was accredited to Peter Ellis Bean.¹¹

Stanley Faye died after a brief illness on March 6, 1949 in Aurora, Illinois at the home of a friend, Charles R. Sherman. He was only 62 years of age. A bachelor, he was survived by two nephews, Charles K. Faye, of San Francisco and Harold K. Faye of New York. Faye will be kindly remembered by scholars of nineteenth century Gulf and Caribbean pirate lore for his in-depth research, illuminating footnotes, and numerous and varied sources. Many of the sources were found in research libraries in the United States. Faye reminds us that pirate treasure troves are not always dug up in remote places.

Endnotes

1. The manuscript *Privateers of the Gulf* is being published in book form by Dogwood Press, Hemphill, Texas.
2. Stanley Faye to J. Frank Dobie, May 12, 1930, Marcel Moraud Papers, Sam Houston Regional Library, Liberty, Texas. Please note the varied spelling of Laffite/Lafitte in the article. The buccaneer spelled his name Laffite and Faye spelled his character's name Lafitte, therefore both spellings are used.
3. Stanley Faye, manuscripts and letters in the Center for American History, University of Texas Libraries, Austin, Texas. A copy of this manuscript was provided to the author through the courtesy of Ralph Elder, Assistant Archivist, and the University of Texas Libraries.
4. *Aurora Beacon News*, Obituaries of Stanley Faye March 7, 8 & 9, 1949.
5. *Ibid.* Obituaries; Stanley Faye to J. Frank Dobie, January 16, 1929, Marcel Moraud Papers, box 5, file 10, Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, Liberty, Texas. Thanks to the Champ d'Asile expert, Dr. Betje B. Klier for excellent editing advice and for steering me to the Moraud Papers.
6. Stanley Faye, *Privateers* Manuscript, page 188. Faye's handwritten note in the manuscript states that chapter nineteen is fiction.
7. J. Frank Dobie, *Coronado's Children*, New York: The Literary Guild of America, 1931, 357-359.
8. Stanley Faye to J. Frank Dobie, Oct. 30, 1928, Marcel Moraud Papers, box 5, file 3, Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, Liberty, Texas.
9. Stanley Faye, *Privateers of the Gulf* manuscript, pp. 199-200.
10. The Historic New Orleans Collection, manuscript 56, New Orleans, La.
11. *op. cit.* *Privateers*, p. 185.

Jean Laffite and the French Fur Traders

Reginald Wilson

In the late 1700s, the powerful Chief of the Omahas, Black Bird, could see the advantage of being a friend of the white man and participating in the white man's civilization. Trade of their fur skins for rope, canvas, hatchets, clothing, guns, powder, etc., was welcomed. Other tribes in the Nebraska Territory, the Oto, Missouri, Pawnee, Ponca, and several smaller tribes, were at peace with one another. However, in the Dakotas, the Sioux were constantly at war with those tribes in the Nebraska Territory, having become hostile to the white man after an altercation with soldiers over a stolen cow. Unfortunately, Black Bird's friendship with the white man was the cause of his demise. During a small pox epidemic in 1800, he contracted this disease and died along with 400 other Omahas. These contagious diseases, intertribal war fare, exhaustion of the women from cleaning hides, all contributed to reduce the size of this tribe to about 1000.

Prior to the Act of Congress in 1854, the land west of the Missouri River, was "Indian Country". Only military personnel, missionaries, scouts for exploring parties, and fur traders were allowed in this area. At this time, there was a big demand for buffalo, bear, and beaver skins in Europe. In England alone, there was a demand for 3,000 beaver skins each year to cover top hats! Fur trading was a very hard, dangerous occupation. There was difficulty in travel, cold winters with little protection, and always the possibility of a fight with hostile Indians that would destroy all the skins collected in a whole season. The French, the St. Louis Fur Company, and the American Fur Company operated in this territory. The fur companies would hire 20 to 50 men for one season. Sometimes this was profitable, at other times a financial disaster. Jean Laffite, in his Journal, mentions a few of the fur traders in the Nebraska Territory who made purchases from him -- Manuel Lisa, Lucien Fontenelle, Joseph

Robidoux, Gratiot, Papin (Pappan), Chouteau and Lucas. Other noted fur traders were: Andrew Henry, John Calter, Labbadie, William Sublette, and Joshua Pilcher.

Jean Laffite was at the right place at the right time. His warehouse in Donaldsonville, Louisiana operated by Dumay St. Martin, had the merchandise needed by the Indians. The fur traders could purchase these items at a much more reasonable price than at other sources. Furthermore, Laffite would deliver these goods to St. Louis.

One of those traders, Manuel Lisa, (1772-1820) was called Nebraska's first white settler. He came from St. Louis to the Missouri River in 1807 to start a fur trading venture. He built the first Ft. Lisa on the Big Horn in Missouri. He later helped organize the St. Louis Fur Company in 1809 and became one of its directors. In 1812 this company was reorganized and became known as the Missouri Fur Company with Lisa as President. The fur traders generally were helpful to the Indians. They brought trade goods, blankets and other supplies and they distributed garden seeds, including pumpkin, beans, turnips, and potatoes. They loaned them traps and arranged for blacksmith work to be done for them.

Joseph Robidoux III was born in 1783. At the age of 16, young Joseph was already accompanying fur traders up the Missouri River. In 1803, he organized a trading post at Fort Dearborn, Ill, site of present-day Chicago. In 1809, he established a trading post near the site of present-day Council Bluffs. He married and had six sons and one daughter. In 1822, the American Fur Company bought him out and offered him \$1,000.00 a year not to compete with them. Later, in 1826, the American Fur Company hired him to establish a trading post at Blacksnake Hills (St. Joseph, Mo.) at a salary of \$1,800.00 a year. Here he prospered, hiring as many as 20 Frenchmen to engage in trading.

In the 1940s, John Andrechynne Laffite, appeared on the scene claiming

to be the great grandson of Jean Laffite. On May 13, 1947, he gave an affidavit stating that his father was Leon Jean Laffite (March 10, 1865 - April 16, 1898) and his mother was Mary Pauline Fontenelle (August 11, 1868 - April 12, 1932). This writer wanted to find the relationship, if any existed, between Lucien Fontenelle, the fur trader, and Mary Pauline Fontenelle. Through numerous books, library archives, newspaper clippings, and finally descendants of Lucien, I discovered the history of Lucien Fontenelle. Notably, there never was a person by the name of Mary Fontenelle, who was a descendant of Lucien, but this is not surprising. Just prior to this discovery, Jean Epperson, a Laffite Society member, found that John A. Laffite was an impostor. His true name was John Matejka. This was found through his Railroad Retirement records and confirmed by several Nebraska census records. What is surprising is the extent to which John A. went to establish a plausible background connected to people Jean Laffite would have known.

Lucien Fontenelle's grandfather was a Marquis in France. Both parents were killed near New Orleans during a hurricane while Lucien and his sister, Amelia, were still small children. Fortunately, the children were with their Aunt, Madam Merlier, in New Orleans and were safe. Lucien, at the age of 14, traveled to St. Louis and up the Missouri River with Joseph Pilcher. He eventually married Meumbane (Bright Star), daughter of the Omaha Chief, Big Elk. This couple had four sons and a daughter. The oldest son, Logan (Shongaske), born in 1825, married Gixpeaha (New Moon) and they had three daughters. Logan became Chief of the Omaha at the age of 25. He spoke French, English, Omaha, and the Siouan language group. Unfortunately, Logan was killed on July 17, 1855, at the age of 28 years by the Sioux while on a buffalo hunt with the Omaha.

In recognition of the contribution this pioneer Fontenelle family made to Nebraska, there are streets, schools, lakes, a power plant, and a State Park named in their honor.

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Columbia Library, Uni. of Missouri, "Robidoux Family Papers" 1858-1873 (c2627) Western Historical Manuscript Collection, Columbia, Mo.
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Jensen, Richard E. "The Fontenelle and Cabanne Trading Post" Nebraska State History Soc., Lincoln, NE.

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Personal Contacts

Fontenelle, Logan Omaha, NE., great, great, Grandson of Lucien Fontenelle.

Kramer, Joyce Duluth, Minn., great, great Granddaughter of Lucien Fontenelle.

Order Of Cargo Permit*

Mssrs. Laffite to Laffite
Port of Campeche

St. Louis, M.T.
Order for cargo permit
This Wednesday the 15 of April
One thousand eight hundred and eighteen

Twenty
Ten adults

Ten young
In addition five
Twenty
Two hundred
Twenty-five

Three hundred

Three hundred
Three hundred
Five molds
Twenty pieces

Two hundred
Five hundred
Five hundred

Mulatto slaves as follows:
"Mur" [Mûr?] having good teeth. Males speaking French..
adults with teeth: women speaking French..
nursing babies or, if suitable, three below 10 years
Mirvins [?]: Five hundred large axes..
butcher knives: Twenty-five cauldrons..
pounds of silk ribbons: One thousand "Silex" [fire-
striking flints]
pieces of strips of wool: three thousand "Silex"
[musket flints]
pounds of musket balls: three hundred muskets
pounds of powder: Five hundred blankets
to make musket balls: Four casks of Wine..
of packing cloth: One hundred pounds of
vermillion
pounds of tobacco: Three hundred shirts
pounds of sheets of soft lead
pounds of Dry Sugar

JLR Robidoué [?]

Sign -
[Handwritten signature of Robidoué here]

\$3535
The 19th May
1818

The payee will receive in Alexandria

Jn. Laffite
[Handwritten signature here]
Direct to Donaldsonville
Approved: A.J. Laci ... [?]
Jas. De la Porta
The fourth June 1818

* Translated by D. McDonald Karilanic and reviewed by Dr. Gene Marshall,
members of the Laffite Society, Galveston, Texas.

Messrs Laffite à Laffite...
 Port de Campeche {

St. Louis. M. T.

Commande de Cargaison payée
 à mercredi le 15 avril
 Mille huit cents dix huit.

Vingt	esclaves Mutatres Comina dunt:	
Dix D'age	Mur ayant de bonnes dents: Males portant français -	
Dix jeunes	adultes avec dents: femmes portant français -	
En plus cinq	nourrissons: ex. si convenables, trois au dessous de 10 ans.	
Vingt	Mirvins: Cinq cents grandes haches	
Deux cents	Couteaux de boucher: Vingt cinq	Chaudrons..
Vingt-cinq	livres de rubans de soie: Mille briquets à silex..	
Trois cents	pièces de bandes de laine: Trois	mille silex..
Trois cents	livres de balles: Trois cents sous quatre	
Trois cents	livres de poudre: Cinq cents	Couvertures
Cinq moulins	pour fabriquer les balles: Quatre	futs de Vin..
Vingt pièces	de toile d'emballage: Cent livres de	vermillon..
Deux cents	livres de tabac: Trois cents	Chemises..
Cinq cents	livres de plaques de plomb	malleable..
Cinq cents	livres de Sucre Sec..	

J. Robidoux
 Signe

\$3535⁰⁰
 Le 19 Mai
 1818

Payée reçue à Alexandrie

J. Laffite

Direct to Donaldsonville
 Approved by J. Laffite
 Dated May 9. 1818
 J. de La Port
 4 June 1818

Order of cargo permit. Merchandise shipped from Donaldsonville to Joseph Robidoux in St. Louis. Payment to be made in Alexandria. Signed by Jean Laffite, Port of Campeche. John de La Port (secretary) 4 June 1818

Psychological Profile of John A. Laffite

Don C. Marler

Any analysis of a person based upon information other than that gained in personal face to face contact must be considered tentative and highly qualified if not speculative. The personality characteristics of John Andrechyne Laffite (John A.) have been described in some detail; why such characteristics may have existed is more speculative.

John A. can be described as an uneducated man, one who was crude, abrasive, overbearing, domineering, suspicious, cunning, self centered, unable to form lasting meaningful relationships and likely unable to love. There is no evidence that he was extremely intelligent though he was certainly of not less than average intelligence.

Basically John A. exhibited several aspects of the classic paranoid personality: namely, (1) grandiosity (often with delusions of grandeur), (2) ideas of persecution, (3) over suspiciousness, (4) a belief system that is organized around the foregoing characteristics, and (5) a compulsive preoccupation with that system. Such disturbances often have as an underlying cause a low self-esteem, created by early experiences that do not authenticate one as a person of worth. We know nothing of John's early experiences, we see only the resulting personality.

It is not unusual for delusions of grandeur to center around identification with a famous person. A confusion of identity is often a part of the paranoid process. John A. Laffite worked under an alias using the name of Nafsinger, who he claimed was his stepfather, and he spent much of his adult life posing as the great grandson of the famous privateer, Jean Laffite. He acted on this later idea in several ways such as filing a birth certificate in 1947, at age 54, under the name John Andrechyne Lafitte, and by publishing a book in which he claimed kinship with

the famous privateer. He was obsessed with the material he possessed and with the purported relationship to Jean Laffite.

John tried to convince various persons of the authenticity of his relationship to Jean Laffite and of the materials he was seeking to publish. In his contacts with various writers and researchers he exhibited an overly suspicious and cautious posture and complained often that those with whom he was in contact were trying to purloin his material. This fear of being taken advantage of, and the resulting defensiveness, was so extreme he had much difficulty consummating business agreements.

That John A. was psychologically and emotionally disturbed is without doubt, but the nature and extent of such disturbance is open to interpretation. At least three possibilities exist.

Was he psychopathic or at least sociopathic -- having no conscience, no remorse over his attempts to deceive the public about his identity and his materials, little or no sense of or concern about what impact his behavior had on others?

Or was he delusional -- believing at some level that he was actually related to Jean Laffite? His confusion of identity -- he operated under at least three different names -- would support this idea. In addition he told one acquaintance that he was a plastic surgeon. There seems to have been no rational reason for use of the aliases and for the dissimulation; the reason may well have been irrational and unconscious.

The third possibility is that he was simply dishonest. He was by temperament and psychological make-up capable of, and perhaps inclined toward, gaining the recognition he sought by devious means such as forgery and fabrication. The theory that he was simply a crooked businessman trying to sell his story for money is too

facile. We know he worked at least 30 plus years promoting his story with relatively little remuneration. Even with his railroad retirement travel pass and proclivity for mooching, he must have incurred great expenses.

If his motivation or aim was not money --what then, was it? The definitive answer may never be known, but the case can be made that he was, as discussed above, compelled by irrational psychological and emotional needs to seek an identity that gave him a sense of self worth, or as Eric Hofer would have said, to destroy or obscure a

hated self. Did he try to emulate Jean Laffite by adopting Laffite's method -- changing his identity and obscuring his past?

While the underlying causes for his difficult personality will likely never be known, John A. was certainly a mentally and emotionally disturbed person.

Note: Don C. Marler, MSW has worked as a psychotherapist and as Director of a Community Mental Health Center.

The Annual Trek to New Orleans

Jeff Modzelewski

From Saturday, January 6, through Tuesday, January 9, 2001, a substantial contingent of Laffitians once more called New Orleans their home-away-from-home, as they have done a number of times during the organization's six-and-one-half-year history. The principal purpose of this journey was to attend the annual banquet of the Louisiana Historical Society. The guest speaker at this year's banquet was William "Jack" Davis, who is currently doing research for a book about Jean and Pierre Laffite.

Laffitians, including your author and his wife Kathy, car-pooling with R. Dale and Diane Olson, began to arrive at our oft-frequented Hotel St. Pierre, located on Burgundy Street in the French Quarter, on Saturday in the mid-afternoon. The first to arrive dutifully took reins in hand and assumed the stewardship duties of the traditional wine-and-cheese party in the St. Pierre's cozy dining area.

Some twelve or fourteen Laffite Society members enjoyed fellowship and refreshments from 3:00 until 6:00 PM, at which time the group, save for a few who were not up for a hike through the Vieux Carre that evening, set out to continue socializing in - where else? - Laffite's Blacksmith Shop. Laffite's Blacksmith Shop possesses a very dubious claim to any historical legal ownership by the brothers Laffite, but it dispenses beverages that would surely have enticed our favorite privateer and company as surely as they do twenty-first-century revelers in the Crescent City.

It has been remarked that a single incident in a Laffite Society excursion often provokes the amusement of the group to such an extent that it becomes a catch-phrase presumably for all eternity. One classic example, now frequently recounted, was the comment of former Laffite Society Treasurer Jim Earthman at the New Orleans Country Club on the evening of January 8, 1998, at that year's annual Louisiana

Historical Society banquet. After taking a few sips of the traditional - and potent - New Orleans drink, Sazerac, Mr. Earthman exclaimed (and the author here paraphrases), "These Sazeracs are too much. I'm going to have to cut back to Martinis!" The humor of the remark stems, of course, from the comparison of Sazeracs to Martinis as if from a strong drink to a weak one, when in fact - as Martini drinkers will readily acknowledge - the latter cocktail is itself an unforgiving concoction of alcohol untempered by any soft drink, tonic water or soda mixer.

It was in Laffite's Blacksmith Shop where the following incident occurred. I recount it below in what might at first appear to the reader to be a digression from the presumed topic of this article but which, by the tale's end, will prove itself to be an example of the type of event described in the preceding paragraph, one which promises to become a pithy and integral future facet of Laffite Society lore.

To set the stage for those who have not visited Laffite's Blacksmith Shop, the venue is a not very large, but dimly lit, tavern of rustic ambience, set on the northwest corner of Bourbon and St. Philip Streets. In the heart of the French Quarter, and comprising a couple of bars, and a piano and player of same in the back providing live music and inviting audience sing-along participation, Laffite's Blacksmith Shop is a unique watering hole with a feel that is incongruously secluded given its location, perhaps owing to the darkness of its interior.

Our group of ten or twelve Laffitians found a cluster of tables in the center of the tavern, and we seated ourselves and waited for a waiter to attend us. The tables are furnished with the modern type of rounded candleholders - their wide bases resembling the bowls of brandy snifters - that one finds commonly on outdoor patio tables. Noting that two of the

three candles in front of him lacked flame, your author picked up a plastic swizzle stick from the ashtray and set about attempting to light the two extinguished candles from the one already alight.

Shortly our waiter, a strapping young man of smooth appearance, arrived at our tables and began to take drink orders in turn. As he reached me - my eyes still downcast as I strove to ignite the recalcitrant unlit candles, a task more difficult than it sounds due to the swizzle-stick tool I was forced to use - the waiter had the audacity to direct to me these words: "What can I get you, Fire-Boy?"

The lad's words cut me to the quick; his impertinence numbed my innards; his lack of respect would have affronted the sensibilities of a Hun. Nonetheless, I responded in a courteous voice with my beverage order.

Could the young lad not see that he had so cavalierly addressed the current President of The Laffite Society? Was he not awed by the presence of the only two Past Presidents of said Society, who were seated at the same table? Apparently not, for nary a mote of contrition was evident in his voice nor demeanor for the remainder of our stay that evening in his establishment.

At one point, goaded by my wife Kathy, who teasingly berated him for having verbally abused her husband, he replied: "You wouldn't believe the things I see happen in here - people pouring hot wax all over the tables and throwing the candles at each other when they get drunk. Usually we just throw 'em out of here as soon as they start messing with those candles!"

I quietly pointed out that nothing in my behavior had indicated the least probability that my behavior would degenerate to that level, the truth of which statement our waiter did at least acknowledge. However, one could not fail to recognize that the owner of Laffite's Blacksmith Shop has not yet expended the funds to send his employees either to sensitivity training or to a "Dale Carnegie's How to Win Friends and Influence People" course.

Despite this experience within only a few hours of our arrival in New Orleans, the evening progressed happily thereafter, and after some

ninety minutes in Laffite's Blacksmith Shop our group departed to trek the few blocks back to the Hotel St. Pierre. When your author arrived for breakfast at the St. Pierre's dining room the following morning, however, he could not help but manage a rueful grin as several of his fellow Laffitians already arrived greeted him with, "Good morning, Fire-Boy!"

Still and all, I prefer to think that the appellation, which apparently will now remain with me for an indefinite length of time, is used by my fellow Laffitians in a spirit of commiseration rather than derision. And the circumstance has even given me food for thought as regards the Great American Novel I have been planning to write for two and one-half decades. If my fellow writer from the Empire State, Herman Melville, commenced his great tome "Moby Dick" with the lines "Call me Ishmael," why cannot I commence mine, if it likewise be told in a first-person autobiographical manner, "Call me Fire-Boy"? But now I do, indeed, digress.

That morning, a Sunday, many of the visiting Laffitians attended worship services at St. Louis Cathedral in Jackson Square. Truly, this historic church is worthy of visit by those of any faith, a beautiful edifice both in interior and exterior, the majestic organ sounding hymns, the altar still impressively decorated for the Christmas season just ended.

No structured group event was planned for the daylight hours, but we were slated to dine at the Pelican Club on Exchange Alley that evening. Laffitians passed the afternoon strolling about and shopping in the French Quarter and socializing at the St. Pierre.

At 5:00 P.M. we convened in the lobby of the St. Pierre to depart for the Pelican Club. The weather was cool and drizzly, so while some walked with umbrellas, others hopped taxis for the short trip to the restaurant.

Joining us for an elegant and leisurely dinner as a guest of The Laffite Society was Jack Davis, who provided us with a preview of the remarks he would make at the Louisiana Historical Society Banquet the following evening.

After dinner the group disbanded to go their separate ways.

The Olsons and Modzelewskis continued walking southwesterly, crossing Canal Street in the direction of the Riverwalk Mall, to the huge Harrah's Casino. We spent several hours there gaming and watching the live shows (including a mini-Mardi Gras parade which winds its way through the casino every few hours, complete with dancing girls, a transvestite on stilts, and a brass band, all of the foregoing throwing beads to the onlookers sitting at slot machines as if at a real outdoors Mardi Gras parade). A short cab ride across Canal Street and back to the St. Pierre concluded our evening at the witching hour.

Monday during the day was spent as was Sunday, with members of the group going their separate ways, exploring the Quarter or relaxing in the hotel as they saw fit. At 6:00 P.M. groups began to disperse by automobile to the Tavern on the Park, some three miles distant from the hotel and the site of this year's Louisiana Historical Society banquet.

As with the 1998 banquet, at which The Society's own R. Dale Olson was the featured speaker, the 2001 banquet was a wonderful black-tie affair, of just the right duration and conducted with tongue sufficiently in cheek to ensure enjoyment but preclude stuffiness. Jack Davis addressed the group in an entertaining and informative talk, speaking of the research into the Laffites in which he was involved for a forthcoming book. Among other points, Mr. Davis extolled the virtues of the New Orleans Notarial Archives, the Director of which, friend and Society member Sally K. Reeves, was in attendance at the banquet. Mr. Davis as well noted the wealth of historical information to be found in Cuban archives, a repository still largely to be mined given the continued, but perhaps now abating, estrangement between that land and the United States.

The Louisiana Historical Society annual banquet is normally held at the New Orleans Country Club, but the latter facility was not available for this year's affair, and the banquet's organizing committee was forced to make other arrangements at the Tavern on the Park.

It must be said that, while a respectable establishment, the Tavern on the Park cannot, in this author's opinion, compete with the New Orleans Country Club as a venue for this annual event. The space in the restaurant was a bit inadequate for the number of attendees; it was difficult to mingle and socialize while enjoying pre-dinner cocktails, because so much of the floor space was consumed by the dinner tables and chairs arranged for the evening that, with all attendees standing, there was no room in the aisles to move about.

In addition, the thirty-minute cocktail period preceding the dinner was the cause of some frustration; the bar staff was insufficient in number, causing banquet attendees to wait on line for ten or more minutes to order drinks, and when the allotted half-hour span ended, the open bar was simply declared closed, with no warning given to those still standing on line to order drinks.

And lastly, the charm of the old-moneyed ambience of the New Orleans Country Club simply cannot, of course, be duplicated.

Nonetheless, the evening was definitely an overall success - the food was delicious, the wait staff worked hard to serve, and friend and Society member Bill Reeves and his fellow members of the Louisiana Historical Society who organized this year's event are to be commended for arranging an enjoyable affair.

The banquet was the climax of our stay in New Orleans, and the last time we Laffitians were all together on this trip. Beginning early Tuesday morning we began to disperse for our journeys home, according to our individual timetables. Your author, his wife, and the Olsons stayed in the Crescent City until mid-afternoon, exploring book and antique shops Uptown and in the Garden District and later lunching.

For those who enjoy browsing in old book stores, as do I, the French Quarter offers a wealth of enjoyment in this regard, for some six or more used bookstores are located within manageable walking distance. I could spend - I *have* spent - hours in these shops, literally losing track of the

passage of time. One of the stores prints a small brochure which lists all of these nearby bookstores and their addresses, and this free handout is generally available at the check-out counters in all of them. On this trip we discovered two bookshops which we had not previously visited, one of which was refreshingly off the beaten tourist path, on Barracks just a couple of blocks off Rampart.

On Tuesday evening at about 8:00 P.M. the Olsons and Modzelewskis found ourselves boarding the Bolivar

Ferry to cross Bolivar Roads and cruise back into Galveston, completing another pleasant Laffite Society trip to New Orleans.

We estimate that if dues and membership level stay constant, in another four centuries or so we will be able to afford a down-payment on a French Quarter property from which to administer a branch of The Laffite Society, thereby eliminating the need for hotel lodging on our recurring trips to New Orleans!

Evidence of the New Orleans trek.



Historian, Jean Epperson
and
Writer, William "Jack" Davis

More Evidence-



Above - President and First Lady
Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski

Below - Reginald Wilson, and
Pam Keyes, members

And still more evidence ~



Sally K. Reeves, Society Member and Director,
New Orleans Notarial Archives

GENERAL MEETING SUMMARIES AND FEATURED
PROGRAM ABSTRACTS
July through Dec., 2000

Dorothy McD. Karilanovic

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Following the call to order by the President, guest speaker Professor Gene Marshall, author of a recent, new English translation of the document, *The Journal of Jean Laffite: the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story*, discussed the rigors of his experience relating to advertising procedures, costs, and publicity connected with publication of his book entitled, *The Memoirs of Jean Laffite: from the Journal of Jean Laffite*, published by X-libris, 1999.

Due to time constraints the Minutes of the June meeting were not read and no Treasurer's report was given..

Archivist Don Marler showed members a photocopy sent to him by a distant relative of a man attired in 19th century dress alleged to be a descendant of an illegitimate son of Jean Laffite, the photocopy to be entered in the archive.

Mr. Marler also reported that he had received for The Laffite Society archive from Mr. Warren Stauffer, through an Internet contact, photographs taken in the French Quarter, New Orleans, at the Quadroon Ballroom, several of which were of portraits of young women of the 19th century famous for their beauty. Mr. Stauffer is now a member of the Laffite Society.

Several soft-cover copies of Professor Gene Marshall's new book *The Memoirs of Jean Laffite: from the Journal of Jean Laffite* were made available for sale to members.

Advisory Board member Dr. Reginald Wilson reported on research about the possibility of Pierre and Jean Laffite being buried at the church of Dzidzantun in the Yucatán. Ramiro, student at the Presbyterian School of Theology in Mérida, was able to verify with the local priest at the church that 1) there were no burials in the church

floor; 2) there were no names recorded of burials there before a new floor was placed; 3) there are no records there or at Dzilam to indicate that the Laffites were buried there. The student, Ramiro, plans to do more investigation in this area of Yucatán during the summer months of 2000.

As an addendum to his cemetery article published in *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, Vol. VI, No. 1, 2000, Dr. Wilson requested that the following statement be entered in the record which might explain Jean Laffite's claim in *The Journal* . . . that his brother, Pierre, was buried, or would be buried, in the Wesleyan Cemetery in Alton, Illinois: Due to closures of several cemeteries in the St. Louis area in 1847-1848, reburials were necessary. Dr. Wilson speculates that if Pierre Laffite had been interred originally in one of these, Jean Laffite might have known of this change well before Pierre's removal and reburial in the Wesleyan Cemetery.

Advisory Board member Jean L. Epperson stated that she had received an e-mail letter from Betje Klier, French language specialist and researcher on Champ d'Asile, quoting a statement from *The Washington Gazette* dated April 23, 1823, that Jean Laffite had been killed in action aboard ship during capture of his 60 man crew by a British sloop in the Gulf of Mexico.

R. Dale Olson mentioned he had purchased a mystery novel on Laffite entitled *The Laffite Case*, by Ray Peters, published by Write Way Publications, 1997.

A slate of nominees for office was presented by Jeff Modzelewski. President Kathy Modzelewski called for other names from the floor as candidates for office. Prof. Gene Marshall was nominated to the Advisory Board by Mike Eubank;

motion by R. Dale Olson, seconded by Diane Olson, motion carried.

Don Marler, current Archivist and nominee for the position of Editor-of-Publications for 2000-2002, spoke briefly about the new ideas for the publication, including one for an advertising policy. R. Dale Olson suggested incorporating in a future article of *The Chronicles* the historical interview with James Campbell, close associate of Jean Laffite, with photographs of Grand Ilse and Grande Terre, Louisiana.

The President called for suggestions from the floor for future programs. Ideas put forward were as follows: The Slave Trade; Excavated Artifacts; Films on Laffite; the 1865 packet boat *Denbigh*.

President Kathy Modzelewski asked members to suggest possible sites for upcoming special event travel. Suggestions received were as follows: New Orleans; Grand Isle/Grande Terre (a re-visit); Isle Dernier; Trinity River/Champ d'Asile site; Palacios, TX (the historical Luther Hotel); Sam Houston Reginald Library and Research Center, Liberty, TX (a re-visit); Seguin TX (Oct. 20) for the unveiling of Juan Seguin's statue; Jefferson, TX; the Yucatán (Mérida, Dzilam de Bravo, Dzidzantun); Cartagena, S.A.; Cuba (historic island archives).

The President extended thanks on behalf of The Laffite Society to Mike and Jerry Eubank for purchasing and setting up refreshments on short notice for the evening's meeting, and also to Betty Wilson and Jean Epperson for offering to provide the buffet for the August meeting.

Tuesday, August 8, 2000

Minutes of June and July, 2000 were not read due to time constraints.

No treasury report was given.

Secretary Dorothy Karilanovic read a two-and-one-half page letter she had translated, addressed to French Member-at-Large Patrick Lafitte, from French handwriting specialist Gérard Panisett offering a preliminary critique of several pages of *The Journal of Jean*

Laffite: the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story, as well as his own opinion that *The Journal* is "probably a contemporary forgery." Mrs. Karilanovic also read a list she had prepared of other contents in a packet including this letter sent to The Laffite Society for the archive by Patrick Lafitte, as follows: 1) Letter from Gérard Panisett, French handwriting expert, along with two translations of Panisett's letter: one by Patrick Lafitte, and one by Mrs. Karilanovic 2) Handwritten genealogical table of the Lafittes of Biarritz and descendants 3) A 26-page, abridged diary by Pierre Lafitte [sic] written in 1794 (13 photocopied pages written in French, presumably in his own hand). Also included, the French text of the diary, copied in his own hand by Patrick Lafitte, 6 pages 4) Enlarged, photo copies of birth/baptismal acts for Pierre, Louis, and Jean Lafitte of Biarritz: birth dates respectively - 1773, 1779, and 1783 5) Enlarged, photo copy of marriage act of Laurent Lafitte and Marie Daguerre, parents of Pierre, Louis, and Jean Lafitte 6) File consisting of early 19th C. correspondence in French and in original handwriting, letters printed in news articles, excerpts from the publication *Généalogie et Histoire de la Caraïbe* on the history and genealogy of Chevalier Anne Louis Tousard (born 3-12-1749; died 5-8-1817), a representative of the French royal government attached to the French consulate in New Orleans who occupied several consular positions in America and who was the object of vilification for his ties to French royalty. Collection includes an exchange of letters printed in 1814 in a local New Orleans newspaper between Tousard and Governor William Claiborne, the latter expressing support and sympathy for Tousard.

After review by Professor Gene Marshall, these documents will be entered into The Laffite Society archive at The Eiband Gallery.

The Secretary referred to a brief discussion in Louis-Jean Calvet's book

Barataria (p. 295) regarding the various spellings of the rather unusual French surname of "You," such as in Dominique You, as follows: Hiou, Hyou, Iou, Hioux, Youx. Author Calvet offers the hypothesis that Dominique You may have been the son of Alexander Hiou and Marie Gharau of Saint-Jean d'Angély, France, and had a brother by the name of Brice (see p. 296) of *Barataria*.

Advisory Board member and Laffite Society Historian Jean L. Epperson mentioned her interest in research into the sources of Stanley Faye's work *Privateers of the Gulf*, written in 1928, which, although considered as a work of fiction was not published as such due to the numerous citations included in the work which seem to merit further examination as to factual certainty. Ms. Epperson also referred to a paper entitled "Jean Laffite: Secret Treasure," and offered copies of an obituary for Stanley Faye, "widely known writer and former *Beacon News* historical editor," printed in *The Aurora Beacon News*, March 7, 1949.

Ms. Epperson brought for members' interest an art book entitled *Louvière Fine Arts*. Mr. Louvière is a painter and sculptor in the Lake Charles area whose work includes numerous landscapes, has been widely exhibited.

President Jeff Modzelewski announced transfer of membership files to new Laffite Society Membership Chairman Don Peak. The President handed out the binders kept in the Archive which contain short descriptions of duties associated with each respective officer of the Board, these to be updated as necessary. Mr. Modzelewski also requested that new co-treasurers Mike and Jerry Eubank place their signatures on file for check-signing purposes.

Members were reminded to keep their calendars open for the upcoming January 8 annual meeting in New Orleans of The Louisiana Historical Society where Jack Davis, Texas history writer and author of a new book on Jean Laffite, is scheduled to speak

Robert Schaadt, Dir. Of the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, TX, and Sally Reeves of the New Orleans Notarial Collection, both had articles published in *Provenance*. An article by author and Laffite researcher Robert C. Vogel also appeared in *Louisiana History*.

Laffite Society Editor-of-Publications Don Marler has been invited to speak at the Texas Archeological Society conference Oct. 27-29, on the subject of Fort Terán. Mr. Marler also called for articles from members for the upcoming issue of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.

Advisory Board member Jean L. Epperson stated she had found on an original Social Security application the name of Mary Perlieu Fontenello, listed as the mother of John Matejka (a.k.a. John Lafflin/Laffite).

Author, Laffite researcher and member of The Laffite Society Robert C. Vogel and Kathleen Taylor Vogel will be in the Galveston area for the September meeting.

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

President Jeff Modzelewski opened the meeting with an introduction and welcome for author Jeff Abbott of Austin, Texas.

The special presentation for the evening's meeting was entitled *The Great Storm of 1818*, given by Laffite researcher and author Robert C. Vogel. In view of the many events occurring on the island this month of September in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the devastating hurricane of September 8, 1900 which descended upon Galveston causing catastrophic destruction and the death of more than 6,000 persons, Mr. Vogel presented a unique historical perspective of the hurricane of 1818 which also swept over the island, destroying many lives and habitations in the commune established by the Laffite brothers on the island in 1817. In his discussion Mr. Vogel was able to show probable cause that, in addition to the mounting pressure of legal and political influences, the overwhelmingly

destructive effects of the hurricane of 1818 marked a turning point in the careers of the Laffite brothers, thereby contributing greatly to the disintegration of their commune and to their eventual decision to abandon Galveston Island in May of 1820.

Following the special presentation and resumption of the General Meeting, Minutes of the August 8, 2000 meeting were approved as read to members by the Secretary, with the exception of one correction. Treasury balance in the Society's account was reported as \$2,942.99.

Suggestions for additions to *The Laffite Society Chronicles* were offered and discussed by Editor Don Marler and others, as follows: 1) a Letter-to-the-Editor column; 2) an Errata section; 3) inclusion of a list of policy statements; 4) a column referring readers to new book reviews.

Various upcoming special events were discussed: 1) Attendance of the annual meeting of The Louisiana Historical Society in New Orleans January 8, at which Laffite author Jack Davis will speak; 2) Seminar entitled "The French in Texas," to be held in Austin, TX the second week in March, at which ex-officio Laffite Society President R. Dale Olson has been invited to speak, along with Robert C. Vogel, and Patrick Lafitte of Corneilla del Vercol, France; 3) Trip to the Yucatán in January, 2001, in the company of Robert C. Vogel and Kathleen Taylor Vogel.

Robert Vogel mentioned the republication of a nominally priced, attractively presented edition of Arsène La Tour's 1816 work on West Florida.

The President extended thanks on behalf of The Laffite Society to member Robert C. Vogel for his special presentation of the evening, and to July Dolfi for providing refreshments for the meeting. Mr. Modzelewski called for volunteers to purchase and set up refreshments for upcoming meetings. Those wishing to provide this service were asked to notify him or the Special Events Chairman of choices of dates.

Tuesday, October 10, 2000\

The Minutes of the September 12 meeting as read by the Secretary to members in attendance were approved with a motion from Diane Olson, seconded by Kathy Modzelewski.

The Treasurer reported the current balance in The Laffite Society account as \$3,002.99.

Third Vice-President and Special Events Chairman Kathy Modzelewski stated that she is awaiting registration forms for those members wishing to attend the annual meeting of The Louisiana Historical Society in New Orleans on Monday, January 8, 2001. The meeting is to be held at Tavern-on-the-Park, on City Park Ave. Registration per person is \$60.00. According to Kathy, further information on hotel rates and other travel info will be sent in due course to members together with The Laffite Society holiday social invitation.

Following a short discussion, First Vice-President July Dolfi suggested that the Society consider purchasing a variety of chips, dips, drinks, etc. to keep in store to serve at future meetings. Those who wish to provide other types of food at these times are welcome to do so and should notify the Society of the dates they wish to bring food. A decision to establish a regular sign-up list for provisions of refreshments was deferred until February, 2001.

Motion tendered by Diane Olson, seconded by Kathy Modzelewski, to hold the annual Laffite Society Holiday Social, a covered dish buffet, at The Eiband Gallery on Tuesday, December 12, 2000. The Society will pay for main entrees and drinks, and members may bring dishes of their choice. An invitational flyer listing various food categories is to be sent out to members. A decision was announced to request a new membership list and mailing labels with members' names for the holiday party invitations from Second Vice-President and Membership Chairman Don Peak.

Laffite Society Historian and Advisory Board Member Jean L.

Epperson reported that certain city fathers of Lake Charles, La. want to place the Jean Laffite National Marker, researched and prepared by Ms. Epperson and co-funded by the Contraband Buccaneers of Lake Charles and The Laffite Society, in the Shiver-Me-Timbers recreation park in Lake Charles. However, due to the likelihood that this site would permit only limited visibility of the marker, a second location on the lake front is under consideration.

Secretary Dorothy Karilanovic reported that she is having a copy of a complete set of Laffite Society Minutes, dated from the inception of the Society in July, 1994, through July of 2000, placed in a binder in The Laffite Society archive at The Eiband Gallery. This record is to serve as an historical outline of the Society's business transactions, research activities, and special events, to be updated at intervals.

Members were reminded of a seminar to be held in Austin, TX March 8, 2000, on *The French in Texas*, to be sponsored by the French-Italian department at The University of Texas. Ex-officio Laffite Society President R. Dale Olson and Laffite author and research Robert C. Vogel are scheduled to speak at the seminar.

In lieu of a special presentation for the evening, Advisory Board Member Dr. Reginald Wilson continued his discussion on the genealogy of the John Matejka family mentioning that John had had a sister 14 months younger, named Rosemary, who died at age 28, and who supposedly had been in a convent.

In addition, Dr. Wilson stated that a student with whom he has been in contact was still attempting to trace descendants in the Dzidzantun area near Mérida, Yucatán, of Lucie Allen, the French-speaking Mulatto woman who was known to have accompanied the Laffites to the Yucatán, and to have continued to live there after the alleged death of Pierre Laffite in 1821.

Regarding survivors of the hurricane that ravaged Galveston in

1818, Dr. Wilson raised the question of how to verify the number of persons who may have perished at the Champ d'Asile site during this hurricane, the storm supposedly lasting over three days, from September 13 through the 15th. What evidence exists for establishing the number of deaths which some assume were many?

Dr. Wilson also showed members photo copies of various documents, including 1) a commission for a Letter of Marque to Juan Salvador de Torres, signed in 1818 by General A. Humbert; 2) the Le Brave list of Articles; 3) copies of death sentence pronouncements for acts of piracy for Robert Johnson (1819) and John Trickhart, both signed by President James Monroe.

Tuesday, November 14, 2000

After calling the meeting to order, President Jeff Modzelewski extended his sympathy on behalf of The Laffite Society for member and ex-officio Press Director George Najarian and his family, whose wife, Mary Jane, also a Laffite Society member, passed away suddenly on November 9.

Minutes of the general meeting of October 10 were read to members in attendance by the Secretary and approved with a motion from Richard Rasche, seconded by Dave Roberts.

The Treasurer reported the balance in The Laffite Society account as \$2,757.08.

Special Events Chairman Kathy Modzelewski again reminded members of The Laffite Society holiday party and covered dish buffet at The Eiband Gallery from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12. Mrs. Modzelewski also called for suggestions of things to do, places to visit in New Orleans during the upcoming trip January 6-8. The purpose of this meeting is to attend the annual meeting of The Louisiana Historical Society. Among the suggestions made were, a possible visit to the new World War II Museum and a tour of the Garden District.

The President extended thanks

holiday party in December, and copies of *The Laffite Society Chronicles*.

Tuesday, December 12, 2000

Due to the annual holiday party of The Laffite Society, no meeting was held.

on behalf of members present to Richard Rasche for providing the evening's refreshments.

In place of a special program or discussion of on-going research, members joined in helping to prepare mailings including information on the January Louisiana trip, the upcoming

CALENDAR

General meetings of The Laffite Society are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Eiband's Gallery, 2201 Post Office Street, Galveston, TX., 77550, (409) 763 5495. Many of the meetings feature interesting and informative presentations by members or guest speakers. The exception is the December meeting, the annual "Holiday Social," which is an evening of food, drink, and entertaining conversation in a relaxed and festive setting.

Board of Directors meetings are scheduled for the first month of each calendar quarter (January, April, July, and October) on the same day as that month's general meeting and normally either precede or follow same. Additional Board of Directors meetings may be scheduled at the Board's discretion.

In addition to the general meetings, one or more special events are normally scheduled during the year. Examples of such special events which have taken place in the past include: an excursion to Grande Terre, Louisiana (Laffite's "Barataria"), the address of the Society's then-President, R. Dale Olson, to the Louisiana Historical Society at the New Orleans Country Club, and a summer archaeological excavation at the supposed site of Laffite's Maison Rouge.

Inquiries about upcoming special events may be directed to The Laffite Society, P.O. Box 1325, Galveston, Tx., 77553, or to Vice-President Kathy Modzelewski (409 763 5495) The Laffite Society attempts to mail information (snail mail or email) to members and interested parties on the Society's mailing list as special event details are determined.

The Laffite Society Chronicles are published two times per year—in the spring and fall. The publication schedule is not always kept precisely.

Bulletin Board

This bulletin board can be used for announcements or submission of suggestions for the Society including suggestions for improving *TheLaffite Society Chronicles*. If you have a message for the BB send it to the editor of the *Laffite Society Chronicles*.

* The Society now has a new webpage. Member, Andy Hall, created the first page which served us well. Now this task is assumed by member Mike Eubanks -- see the new page at <http://laffite.participant.org> This page should serve as an additional means of communication with members and the general public.

* Judy Dolfi has resigned as Program Vice President.

* New member, Sheryl Hingley (Sawyer) lives in Australia and is an award-winning author of two historical novels and several non-fiction works. Fluent in several languages Cheryl has extensive experience in writing, publishing and teaching. She conducts workshops on writing historical novels. Cheryl was guest speaker at the Romance Writers of Australia Conference in Brisbane in August, 2000. She is currently under contract as Project Editor with *Reader's Digest*. Her books are published under the name Cheryl Sawyer. Those members who love historical novels should read her *La Créole* (about eighteenth century France) and *Rebel* (about French involvement in America's fight for independence). The promotional material for *Rebel* portrays her new book as "Masterfully told and meticulously researched ... a brilliant example of an increasingly popular genre known as muscular romance, a new breed of love story about strong, intelligent women..."

Most exciting is her next book *Siren* -- about Jean Laffite. It is now submitted to London publishers -- more on this later. The book is described as "A love story where the most dangerous battle of all is fought within the stronghold of the heart."

* Sheryl also thinks that publication of a Laffite family tree in the *Chronicles* would be of interest. We certainly agree - any one up to the task of developing it?

* Dogwood Press has just published the long dormant manuscript *Privateers of the Gulf - 1803-1820*, written in 1928 by Stanley Faye. This book is an account of Pierre and Jean Laffite's relations with the new government of Louisiana, the Spanish and the Mexican Revolution. He was unable to get the manuscript published so he gave it to J. Frank Dobie hoping that he could publish it. Dobie never published it and the Dobie trust gave it to the University of Texas in 1943, where it has remained until now. The book is available from Island Books, located at Eibands Gallery, 2210 Post Office, St., Galveston, Tx. 77550 ph. 409 763 5495, or from Dogwood Press, H.C. 53 Box 345 Hemphill, Texas 75948. Ph. 409 579 2184 . The price is \$25.00.

NEW MEMBERS

The total membership now stands at 85.

New members added since last reported are:

1. Bob & Helen Morgan -- Houston, Texas
2. Michael Martinson -- Los Angeles, Ca.
3. Craig Hlavinka -- Bay City, Texas
4. Sheryl Hingley (Sawyer) was omitted from the past list of new members- sorry.

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AUGUST 2000-JULY 2002

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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.

Annual dues are as follows:

Student.....	\$15.00
Senior (Over 65).....	15.00
Institution.....	15.00
Individual.....	30.00
Family.....	35.00
Sustaining Member.....	100.00
Life Membership (One Payment)	350.00