

MINUTES January 13, 2009 THE LAFFITE SOCIETY East End Historical District  
Association Cottage 1501 Postoffice St., Galveston, Texas 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Ed Jamison; 1st Vice President, Jim Nonus; 2nd Vice President, Kathy Modzelewski; 3rd Vice President, Lynette Haaga; Secretary Pro-Tem and Archivist, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian, Ginny Roberts.

BOARD ABSENT: Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Editor of Publications, Don Marler; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Privateer-at-Arms (nominal), Wil Zapalac.

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

ADVISORY BOARD ABSENT: Jean Epperson; Pam Keyes; Don Marler; Gene Marshall; Robert Vogel; Dr. Reginald Wilson.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Steve Austin and Cathy Hitchcock; Ed and Betty Conner; Dan Cote; Frank and Connie Dryden; Clifford Johnson; Linda and Ondree Kuhn; Walter Modzelewski; George Najarian and Lizette Gaudin; Rob and Carolyn Peterson; Larry and Jan Porter; Tom Shehan.

VISITORS: Jane Rushing.

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. The approval of the minutes of the last meeting (the annual banquet) was deferred because Treasurer Nancy Beaman, who took them, is currently displaced in Dallas. President Ed Jamison thanked those who made the annual banquet a success, both attendees, and those who planned and worked it, including George Najarian and Lizette Gaudin, Lynette Haaga, Kathy Modzelewski, Jim Nonus, and Diane Olson.

The President called upon Jeff Modzelewski to re-cap the trip to New Orleans by five members for the annual banquet of the Louisiana Historical Society ("LHS"), held on Thursday evening, January 8, 2009. Representing the Laffite Society were Ed Jamison and Sandra Rodgers, Walter Modzelewski, and Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski. As a Past President, Jeff was included in the printed program as a speaker asked to recount for attendees Galveston's experience during and post-Hurricane Ike. Jeff spoke for nearly ten minutes, and upon his conclusion outgoing LHS President Sally K. Reeves presented to the Laffite Society via Jeff a check for \$500 to use in recreating its archive.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Founding member R. Dale Olson spoke on potential Laffite research opportunities. He made a distinction between research and learning ? the former done for the eventual benefit of others, the latter for oneself. Dale also distinguished between researching Laffite and researching the story of Laffite. An example of the former was his and Diane's study of presumed facial images of Laffite, published in an early issue of the Laffite Society Chronicles; examples of the latter ? the story of Laffite, "elegant, profound, yet simple" ? are the saga of John Andrechynne Laughlin and The Journal of Jean Laffite, and the history of Fort Livingston on Grande Terre Island, Louisiana, not constructed until after Laffite's death, but in the Barataria Laffite knew so well a quarter-century earlier.

"Niche authorities" exist, and are recognized, in many fields, so despite the depth and breadth of the Laffite legend, "newbies" can delve into a number of specific research areas:

- o The food and drink of Laffite's era, such as caf? brul? (still served at Maspero's Exchange) - but there was no Sazerac yet!
- o John Andrechne Laughlin
- o Possible Laffite burial places - Dzilam de Bravo for Pierre; Alton, Illinois, for Jean? etc.
- o Possible descendants: e.g., those of Pierre Boutte, a contemporary - or even an alias - of Laffite, who still receive oil and gas royalties in southern Louisiana
- o Laffite's treasure ? e.g., around Galveston, a search by a group a quarter century ago that was funded by an "anonymous Galvestonian" of means, the spokesperson for said group being the late attorney Jim Brady.

Other opportunities to advance research and learning on Laffite include:

- o Scanning the publications of The Laffite Society's predecessor, the Laffite Study Group, for posterity
- o Printing digital photos from Laffite Society field trips for hard-copy archiving, and also accumulating the related files on electronic media
- o Printing, and scanning to electronic media, minutes of Laffite Society meetings. Dale noted that a copy of all of this material could also be donated to interested libraries.

During his talk, Dale mentioned an interesting Internet site facilitating research in newspapers: [www.newspaperarchives.com](http://www.newspaperarchives.com).

After Dale's presentation, Ed noted that long-time member Don Peak had passed away. He also noted that Don Marler would like to pass on his duties as Editor-of-Publications, which Don has discharged admirably for many years, and asked for a volunteer(s) to take on that role.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06p.m.

Submitted by

Jeff Modzelewski Recording/Correspondent Secretary, Pro Tem The Laffite Society