

**MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
January 17, 2006
THE TROLLEY STOP
2021 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550**

Board Present: President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Recording/Coresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall.

Board Absent: First Vice-President, R. Dale Olson; Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant).

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

MEMBERS-AT LARGE: Ed Jamison; Lou Graves MacBeth

VISITOR: Nancy Beaman

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Dr. Reginald Wilson presented new information on the previous marriages of John Matejka, also known as John A. Laffite who for decades posed as Jean Laffite's great-grandson. Based on unproven evidence, Dr. Wilson also discussed speculation that Jean Laffite's wife, Christina Lawein, might have been half-sister to Alexander Hamilton. Dr. Wilson also offered his opinion that John Matejka probably acquired the alleged Jean Laffite journal or diary and memorabilia from Lois Ann Little, descendant of Jean Laffite.

MINUTES

No meeting was held in December. No comments or corrections were offered on the Minutes of November 15.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jerry Eubank, presented a written report of the Society's account covering dates 11/15/05 to 1/17/06: Beginning balance on 11/15/05, \$3,533.72; disbursements, \$1,081.42; deposits, \$989.00; ending balance on 1/17/06, \$3,441.30.

NEW BUSINESS

The Treasurer reminded members to renew their dues for 2006.

PATRICK LAFITTE'S LETTER

The Secretary read to members a short letter from French member-at-large, Patrick Lafitte, expressing his friendship and concern for fellow Laffitians during the recent threat of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, pledging his solidarity on the part of his people with his American friends.

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE to JIM EARTHMAN

The Secretary read to members a message of condolence from The Laffite Society which she had sent to long-time Member-at-Large Jim Earthman upon the loss of his late wife and Laffite Society member Margaret Earthman.

FEBRUARY MEETING DATE CHANGED

President Mike Eubank announced that the February Laffite Society meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14 instead of Tuesday, February 21, 2006 due to Mardi Gras events scheduled the latter week.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks extended to Mike and Jerry Eubank for beverages and refreshments. Members were also reminded to contribute to the refreshment fund at each meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

**There being no further business, the general meeting of Jan. 17,
2006 adjourned at 7:25 p.m.**

Submitted by,

**Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**

\dk:2/8/06

File

**MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
February 14, 2006
THE LAFFITE ROOM
2021 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550**

BOARD PRESENT: President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Rec./Corres. Secty, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Stephen Broadstone; Ron Broadstone; Robert Evans; E. Lou Graves MacBeth; Don and B.J. Peak

GUEST SPEAKER: C.J. Christi

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the general meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with cutting of a cake and well wishes for the Secretary in acknowledgment of her birthday on this date.

MINUTES

Secretary Dorothy Karilanovic read the Minutes of January 17 to members present. Minutes were approved on motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jerry Eubank presented a written report showing a beginning balance on 1/17/06 of \$3,441.30; disbursements for Jan., Feb., \$31.65; deposits: refreshment donations, Jan., \$23.00; dues, \$125.00. Ending balance 2/17/06, \$3,557.65.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

C.J. Christi, World War II researcher, author of over 100 articles, boat and air pilot, gave a talk on his book, *World War II in the Gulf of Mexico: a War Close to Our Shores* (2005), the war which took place over the months of May, June, July, and August of 1942. Christi's book contains extensive accounts of information obtained through the author's dedicated personal research of English, American and German military and naval archives, and includes numerous interviews with surviving German U-Boat captains and crew members. He was a member of the Verband Deutscher U-Bootfahrer, an organization of German submarine veterans. A complete list of all the German U-Boats with their captains and crew members is given in the book, along with many photos and maps of U-Boat movements during the years of heavy predation upon American merchant marine ships. Mr. Christi's book pays tribute to the contributions of the American merchant marines during World War II, the unsung heroes of the war whose casualty numbers were almost as great as those of the U.S. Marines.

The author, born in Eunice, LA in 1929, was a graduate of Aviation Cadet Training in the U.S. Air Force, and from multi-engine school at Vance Air Force Base. He finished heavy bombardment training at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX in 1951, and flew combat tour B-29s over North Korea. Following this war, he attended McNeese State University where he majored in English.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks extended to Don Peak for arranging tonight's special presentation, to Mike and Jerry Eubank and to Jim Nonus for providing champagne & other beverages for this evening's birthday celebration; to Lou MacBeth for the angel food cake she made; and to Don and B.J. Peak for dips and chips.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business of the general meeting of February 14, 2006, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

**Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**

\dk:2-27-2006

Corrected 4/13/06

**MINUTES
March 21, 2006
The Laffite Room
TROLLEY STATION
2021 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550**

BOARD PRESENT: President, Mike Eubank; Second-Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Rec./Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall

BOARD ABSENT: Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ron & Beth Austin; Steven Broadstone; Ron Broadstone; George and Lizette Najarian; Don and BJ Peak; Wil Zapalac

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Minutes of February 14, 2006 were read to members present and were approved. Copies had been sent out on-line by the President along with the agenda for this meeting and announcement of the speaker.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jerry Eubank, presented a written report showing a beginning balance on 2/14/06 of \$3,557.65, and an ending balance on 3/21/06 of \$3,563.65.

C.J. CHRISTI ON VIDEO

Member-at-Large, Don Peak, who had engaged author C.J. Christi to speak to the society this past February on his research on German U-boat attacks on American ships during World War II,

announced that a video showing Christi's work was scheduled to appear on television's History Channel.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mike Bailey, Second Vice-President of the Society and Curator at the Brazoria County Historical Museum, gave a talk and slide presentation on *The Texas Navy – The Little Navy That Could*, first established in 1836 with four ships, and on the second Texas navy which was established in 1837 consisting of six ships, including the famous steam-powered naval vessel *Zavala*, the remains of which are said to lie buried beneath a wharf parking lot on Galveston's bay side. Among subjects shown, slides depicted images of early naval history as reflected in Texas currency, as well as firearms used by the navy, photos taken from the Texas State Library Papers. Mike also handed out Xeroxed copies of a legal document between the U.S. Government and the Republic of Texas setting forth articles of agreement on the April 11, 1838 Texas Convention to terminate reclamations of the former government of the Texas Republic for the "capture, seizure, and detention of the brigs *Pocket* and *Durango*" and for "injuries suffered by American citizens on board the *Pocket*".

Also mentioned was the Battle of Campeche on May 13, 1843 at which time the navy of the Texas Republic consisting only of ships under sail prevailed over the steam-powered vessels of the Mexican Navy, this battle occurring two years before the Texas Navy of the Republic was incorporated into the U.S. Navy.

NEW BOOK ON LAFFITE

Laffite researcher and Advisory Board Member Pam Keyes of Miami, OK mentioned in a recent e-mail the publication of a new book, *Patriotic Fire* which has a main focus the participation of Jean Laffite and the Baratarians under his command in aiding General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks extended to Mike and Jerry Eubank for refreshments and beverages for the evening's meeting, and to members for their donations to the refreshment fund.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the general meeting of March 21, 2006 adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

**Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**

\dk:4/12/2006

MINUTES
April 18, 2006
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
Laffite Room
Trolley Stop Building
2021 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Mike Eubank; First Vice-President, R. Dale Olson; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Nancy Beaman; Ron Broadstone; Steven Broadstone; Robert Evans; Ed Jamison; Lou Graves MacBeth; Sybil Marler; Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski; Betty Wilson; Wil Zapalac

VISITORS: Ondree Kuhn; Albert and Gail Pressman

CALL TO ORDER

President Mike Eubank called the general meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes of March 21 were approved following a reading by the Secretary to members in attendance.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jerry Eubank, presented a written report of the Society's account as follows: Beginning balance 3/21/2006, \$3,563.65; disbursements, \$74.49; deposits, \$145.00 including 4 memberships paid:

Wil Zapalac, Ron Broadstone, Mike Bailey, Don and B.J. Peak; ending balance 4/18/2006 was \$3,634.16.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

First Vice-President and Advisory Board Member R. Dale Olson introduced the speaker, Eleanor Clark, new curator at the Rosenberg Library. Ms. Clark discussed the J.O. Dyer collection of Texas history and made available to members present copies of selected material including articles on Laffite history, sketches of historical figures of the Laffite era, letters written by Jean Laffite, and samples of his signature, as well as information on other important documents relating to early Texas history. A final summation in the copied material showing the many donations made by the Dyer family to the library from February 8, 1926 to January 23, 1928 made a lasting impression of Mr. Dyer's wide and varied interests.

Thanks extended to R. Dale Olson for arranging this date's special presentation by Ms. Clark.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Arrangements this date for food and beverages were by Mike and Jerry Eubank, Jim Nonus, Robert Evans, and Bistro LeCroy.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business the general meeting of April 18, 2006 adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

**Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**

\dk:5/10/2006

(Corrected 6/21/2006)

**MINUTES
May 16, 2006
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
Laffite Room
THE TROLLEY STOP BUILDING
2021 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550**

BOARD PRESENT: President, Mike Eubank; First-Vice President, R. Dale Olson; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Recording/Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Nancy Beaman; Ed Jamison; Ondree Kuhn; Don and B.J. Peak; Wil Zapalac

CALL TO ORDER

President Mike Eubank called the general meeting together at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Secretary read the Minutes of April 18 which were approved.

TREASURER

Treasurer, Jerry Eubank, presented a written report of the Society's account as follows: beginning balance 4/28/06 was \$3,634.16; disbursements, \$63.81; deposits, \$86.00; ending balance on 5/16/2006, \$3,656.35. Two memberships paid for Don Marler and Nancy Beaman.

LETTER OF THANKS TO CURATOR

The Secretary reported she had sent a letter of thanks on behalf of R. Dale Olson to Eleanor Clark, the new curator at the Rosenberg Library for her presentation on April 18 to members on the J.O. Dyer collection at the library.

NEW BOOK: *Patriot Fire*

Advisory Board Member Jean Epperson reported the latest new book on Laffite history, *Patriot Fire: Andrew Jackson and Jean Laffite at the Battle of New Orleans* by Winston Groom does not, in her opinion, present for the most part any new historical findings on the Laffites themselves unknown to the Society and seems to be a consolidation of the research to date by others. The author relies a lot for his sources on *The Journal of Jean Laffite: the Private-Patriot's Own /Story*, but also cites William Davis' book, *The Pirates Laffite: the Treacherous World of the Corsairs of the Gulf*, which is considered to be the definitive work to date on Laffite history.

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY CHRONICLES

President Mike Eubank reported the latest issue of *The Chronicles* was at the press and copies would be mailed to members in due course.

NEW OFFICERS FOR 2006-2008

Mike announced that a committee to include Ed Jamison, Jean Epperson, and Jim Nonus would work on a candidate list to be announced at the June meeting and voted on in July.

LAFFITE SOCIETY ARCHIVE

The Secretary brought up the subject of continuing the process, begun by Don Marler, to sort, catalogue, and file the numerous documents in the Society's archive. Under discussion was where to permanently house the files, a site yet to be determined. Also considered, 1) To hire a graduate student archivist as suggested previously by Mike Bailey, 2) give the archive to The Sam Houston Regional Library at Liberty or to the Rosenberg Library 3) allow members at meetings when there is no speaker to work on the sorting, cataloging, etc. under precise direction

Member-at-Large Ed Jamison volunteered to begin work on the archive and enlisted help from the Secretary, and Members-at-Large

Lou MacBeth and Ondree Kuhn who agreed to meet with him the following week.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The question came up again of having quarterly rather than monthly meetings. Decision tabled.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Mike and Jerry Eubank for drinks and refreshments. Members were reminded to contribute to the refreshment fund.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business of the meeting of May 16, 2006, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Submitted by,

**Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**

\dmk:6/15/2006

File
Corrected 8/12/06

**MINUTES
June 20, 2006
The Laffite Society
TROLLEY STOP BUILDING
2021 Strand
GALVESTON, TX 77550**

BOARD PRESENT: President, Mike Eubank; First Vice-President, R. Dale Olson; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Nancy Beaman; Robert Evens; Ed Jamison; Ondree Kuhn; George & Lizette (Gaudin) Najarian; Don & B.J. Peak; Rob and Carolyn Peterson; Betty Wilson; Wil Zapalac

VISITOR: "Capt. Dave"

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 6:25. Mike introduced new member Ondree Kuhn to the group.

MINUTES

The Minutes of May 16, 2006 were approved following a reading by the Secretary to the members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jerry Eubank, presented a written report of the Society's account, as follows: Beginning balance on May 16, 2006, \$3,656.35. Disbursements were for Bistro LeCroy refreshments, P.O. Box rent, printing of *THE CHRONICLES* & mailing envelopes, postage

for mailing: \$491.19. Deposits included donations for refreshments, 18 paid memberships (\$870.00), *CHRONICLE* purchase, for a total in all of \$913.00. Member-at-Large, Diane Burkett, a descendant of Pierre Laffite, contributed a life-time membership to the Society of \$350.00. Ending balance on June 20, 2006: \$4,078.16.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: "WHO WROTE *THE JOURNAL*"?

Advisory Board Member, Dr. Reginald Wilson, continuing his discussion on who wrote *The Journal of Jean Laffite: the Privateer-Patriot's Own Story*, spoke on the history of Laffite pretender John Matejka who for years had posed as the great-grandson of Jean Laffite, calling himself John Andrechyne Laffite. Advisory Board Member Jean L. Epperson called attention to the fact that Dr. Wilson had spent many hours on collateral research of John "A."s (John Matejka's) family lines, using as his sources census, retirement and Social Security records, and various "copy books", or diaries, of medium and small size, alleged to have belonged to Jean Laffite and which are currently housed at the Sam Houston Library and Research Center in Liberty, TX. Dr. Wilson accompanied his talk with a slide presentation showing some of these items.

ARCHIVE REPORT

President Mike Eubank introduced Member-at-Large Ed Jamison as Chairman of a newly formed archival committee to include, at present, Ondree Kuhn, Lou MacBeth, and Secretary Dorothy Karilanovic. The committee had met a few days before to look over the collection of documents remaining to be processed, and had discussed briefly ideas for collating, cataloguing and filing them.

Ed also asked for a discussion on whether or not documents not directly related to Laffite history should be kept on permanent file. Third Vice-President Jim Nonus said that he would, first, like to see the documents before a decision to discard.

WARREN STAUFFER GIFT

Jean Epperson showed members a framed print of a painting by Drummond of the "blacksmith shop" in New Orleans' French Quarter, said to have been owned by the Laffites. The print was given to the Society by Member-at-Large Warren Stauffer of Bourne, MA and Longboat Key, FL. The Society also received from Mr. Stauffer two

letters dated January 2 and January 27, 2006, referring to possible buried treasure in "an old Galveston cemetery".

The Secretary was requested to write and thank Mr. Stauffer for the gift of the print and his intriguing correspondence.

REVOLVING LAFFITE EXHIBIT

First Vice-President and Advisory Board Member R. Dale Olson mentioned that the Executive Director of the Galveston County Historical Museum is interested in mounting a revolving exhibit on Laffite history, and asked for ideas from the membership. Dale suggested forming a committee for this purpose.

SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR BOARD ELECTION

Ed Jamison of the Nominating Committee presented copies for members of a slate of nominees for the Society's Board of Directors for 2006-2008. At issue, Ed said, was Art. 7, Sec. 5 of the Society's By-Laws, in which it is stated that nominees must have been members of the Society for 12 months, a legality which would preclude election of some current nominees. Discussion followed briefly on an option to exclude the clause in the By-Laws to permit new members to take active office as soon as possible.

Members agreed to let the slate stand and approved the list of nominees. Voting will take place at the July meeting, and nominees will be accepted from the floor. At that time, also, duties of new officers will be discussed.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Additional appointees to the Advisory Board will be considered in the new term.

JULY MEETING

Third Vice-President Jim Nonus will give a special presentation at the July 18 meeting which will be of speculative interest to members. Meeting place yet to be determined.

EXCAVATION AT MAISON ROUGE SITE

Co-Coordinator of Research Sheldon Kindall invited members to help Houston Archaeological Society members conduct an excavation at 2021 Strand on Saturday, June 14.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks extended to Mike and Jerry Eubank, and to Jim Nonus, for the evening's refreshments. Members were reminded to contribute to the refreshment fund.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business of the general meeting of June 20, 2006, the President adjourned.

Submitted by,

**Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**

\dmk:6-29-06

MINUTES
July 18, 2006
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
The Lasker House
1019 16th Street
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Mike Eubank; Third Vice-President, Jim Nonus; Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Jerry Eubank; Co-Coordinator of Research, Jean L. Epperson; Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall; Press Director, Dave Roberts

BOARD ABSENT: First Vice-President, R. Dale Olson; Second Vice-President, Mike Bailey; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Historian (office vacant); Archivist (office vacant)

ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Jean L. Epperson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Nancy Beaman; Stephen Broadstone; Robert Evans; Ed Jamison; Clifford Johnson; Lou MacBeth; George Najarian and Lizette (Gaudin); Don and B.J. Peak

VISITORS: Greg Jaynes; Ray and Linda Reed; Kay Schwartz; Jodie Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

President Mike Eubank called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Following a reading by the Secretary of the Minutes of June 20, motion to approve with one correction.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jerry Eubank, presented a written report of the Society's account as follows: Beginning balance June 21, 2006, \$4,078.16; disbursements, \$51.96; deposits, \$229.00 including 6 memberships paid at \$170.00; ending balance this date, \$4,255.20.

THANKS TO OUTGOING PRESIDENT AND TREASURER

Third Vice-President Jim Nonus and the Secretary expressed appreciation before the group for the outstanding contributions to the Society by Mike and Jerry Eubank during their tenure as President and Treasurer respectively, throughout which they gave unstintingly of themselves in multiple roles.

Mike Eubank discussed briefly the duties and expectations for new officers to take under consideration in the next term.

EXCAVATION REPORT FROM JUNE 14 DIG

Co-Coordinator of Research, Sheldon Kindall, stated that one of two courtyards behind the space formerly used as the Laffite Society meeting room at 2021 Strand has a brick floor at 20 cm. below ground. Slate was found at 10 cm., below which there was coarse sand. The objective of this investigation was to search for artifacts from the Battle of Galveston during the Civil War era. (Note correction: Minutes of June 20 stated incorrectly that the excavation on June 14 was held at 1417 Harborside Drive.)

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2006-2008

Ed Jamison of the Nomination Committee announced the following slate of new officers which were approved by unanimous vote with the exception as stated below: President, Jim Nonus; First VP, Lou MacBeth; 2nd VP, Wil Zapalac; 3rd VP, Lizette Gaudin; Secretary, Dorothy Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Archivist, Edward Jamison; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes and Gary Fretz (pending); Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian (office vacant). Third VP Wil Zapalac was absent this date due to travel.

Following nomination of new officers, newly elected President Jim Nonus took up the gavel for the remainder of the meeting, Jim acknowledged the service of the officers of the previous term and discussed briefly some ideas for special event trips during the coming year, such possible destinations as the Yucatan in January, New Orleans, Grande Terre and Grand Isle, LA, and to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center at Liberty, Tx.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

President Jim Nonus distributed Xeroxed copies of an excerpted letter from a newspaper, *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, Vol. XLVII, Number 12,922, Thursday Morning, April 23, 1818. The main focus was on an extract from Natchez, March 26, 1818 of a letter from Dr. John Sibley in Natchitoches on March 16, 1818 to Dr. John H. Robinson of Natchez, reporting the arrival from Galveston of an "extraordinary assemblage of French gentlemen with a large quantity of warlike stores . . . and farming tools", reputed to be intent on creating an "asylum for discontented Europeans".

According to the letter, prior to this arrival, "Lafite (*sic*) the younger" had brought into Galveston the 450 ton Spanish ship *Campeachy* with a cargo of \$360,000.00.

Jim commented that it was tempting to speculate that Galveston, once known as Campeachy, was so named in association with Laffite's capture of this valuable prize. The President then presented to newly elected Archivist, Ed Jamison, a 32 inch by 42 inch placard showing an enlarged reprint of the letter for the Society's archive.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Jim Nonus extended thanks and appreciation to Member-at-Large Clifford Johnson, and to Jodie Wilson and Kay Schwartz, all associates of Karen Derr Realty, for acting as hosts and tour guides for members to view the newly restored Galveston mansion, The Lasker House, which was the Galveston Historical Foundation award winner for 2006 and the site for this date's meeting of the Society. Members were feted with hors d'oeuvres and wine and enjoyed from the great height of a newly constructed deck and Widow's Walk a grand panoramic view of the Gulf and East End historical district.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business of the general meeting of Tuesday, July 18, 2006, the President adjourned.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary

\dk:8-12-2006

file

MINUTES
August 15, 2006
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
Panama Lofts
202 25th St.
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jim Nonus; First Vice-President (Programs), Lou MacBeth; Second Vice-President (Membership), Wil Zapalac; Third Vice-President (Hospitality), Lizette Gaudin; Secretary, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; Press Director, Dave Roberts

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

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Mike Bailey; Stephen Broadstone; Ron Broadstone; Mike and Jerry Eubank; Greg Jaynes; Clifford Johnson; Arthur Kennedy; Ondree Kuhn; George Najarian; Don and B.J. Peak; Kay Schwartz; Betty Wilson

VISITORS: Capt. Dave Brodsky; Claudette Braly; Bruce and Gail Frasier; Judge Garvin Germany; Thomas P. Shehan

CALL TO ORDER

President Jim Nonus called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., acknowledging with thanks Lizette Gaudin, Arthur Kennedy, and B.J. Peak for drinks and buffet, followed by welcome remarks to visitor and former Laffite Society speaker Judge Garvin Germany, and to visitors Tom Shehan and Claudette Braly. Briefly discussed were up-coming special event trips still in the planning stage to the Brazoria County Historical Museum in Angleton, and to the Sam Houston Library and Research Center at Liberty. A tentatively planned trip to the northern Yucatan in January, 2007 is under consideration.

/

Thanks were extended to new member Greg Jaynes for an article he had brought to the meeting regarding mention of a letter from one of the physicians described in last month's presentation on Champ d'Asile (see Minutes of July 18, 2006).

MINUTES

The Minutes of July 18 were approved on motion following a reading by the Secretary to members present.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Nancy Beaman presented a written report of the Society's account, approved on motion, as follows: Beginning balance, \$4,255.20; deposits, \$88.00 (includes 3 memberships totaling \$60.00 and \$28.00 in donations); disbursements, \$10.00; ending balance 8/15/06, \$4,333.20.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – *In Search of Champ d'Asile*

Continuing his discussion on the ill-fated French settlement *Champ d'Asile*, President Jim Nonus prefaced his remarks by giving out Xeroxed copies of extracts of letters from May, June, July, Aug., November of 1818, published in the Philadelphia newspaper *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*. In essence, the letters, in certain cases derisive, expressed doubt that a new settlement of European exiles with socialistic utopian goals, established on the banks of the Trinity River in the untamed wilds west of the Sabine by idealistic French agrarians, could ever meet with success under the governance and control of exiled French military officers from Napoleon's armies who possessed covert imperialistic designs on the territory and little natural ability to "... cultivate grapes and olives, or even barren laurel in the deserts of Texas".

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND HOLIDAY PARTY

- 1) The special presentation on *Champ d'Asile* will be continued at the September 19 meeting.
- 2) A "paranormal reading at Maison Rouge" is scheduled for October 17 meeting.
- 3) November 20 (a Monday meeting) – field trip to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center at Liberty, Tx.
- 4) December 10 (Sunday): the Society's annual holiday party will be held instead of its monthly meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no other business of the general meeting of August 15, 2006, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by

**Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY**

\dk:8/29/2006

SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

This month's meeting was held in New Orleans at The Napoleon House. The Secretary was not in attendance and no Minutes are currently available.

Dmk:9-30-2006

File
6) Mail-Out Reminder: A reminder of the Oct. 17 meeting with parking instructions will go out to members.

NOVEMBER 20th SPECIAL EVENT TRIP

A visit by the Society to the Sam Houston Library and Research Center in Liberty will take place Monday, November 20, instead of the regular meeting date on Tuesday, the 21st. A bus is being scheduled, and there will be a charge for the trip.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Second Vice-President and Membership Chairman Wil Zapalac presented a draft of the new membership list still in progress which will be available at the November meeting..

Resolved, any new member joining the Society in the last quarter of the year will have his/her dues applied toward the new year.

Checks for 2 new members on file with the President will be given to Treasurer, Nancy Beaman, upon her return from travel.

THANK YOU CARDS & REFRESHMENTS

Third Vice President Lizette Gaudin suggested the Society send thank-you cards to persons who contribute services. Lou MacBeth volunteered to make up an example on the computer.

As Hospitality Chairman, Lizette will request two members for each meeting to bring an appetizer and dessert, with the Society providing drinks and main course.

SPEAKER/REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT

Members viewed the proposed agreement form drawn up by Don Marler and the President and pay authorization form by the Secretary. Jim proposed setting aside \$1,000.00 a year for speakers who request payment, with a maximum of \$300.00 per person - \$100.00 for the presentation and \$200.00 for travel.

Members will be able to suggest speakers who will then be approved by 3 board members.

BOARD MEETINGS FOR NOV. & DEC.

Decision reached to have several Board meetings during the year, the next one on November 13 at 2021 Strand, pending confirmation of meeting site.

Another Board meeting will be scheduled for early December.

HOLIDAY PARTY

The President announced that work on party invitations will begin after the October 17 meeting.

REIMBURSEMENT TO PRESIDENT

Members voted to reimburse Jim Nonus for \$100.00 paid to Betje Klier, speaker at the Nov. 19th meeting in New Orleans.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Parliamentarian Diane Olson recommended that officers' duties be reviewed and updated.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Jim extended thanks and appreciation to Lizette Gaudin for overseeing set-up of refreshments at the New Orleans meeting. Lizette was assisted by new member, Pam Gilbert.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the Board Meeting of Friday, Oct. 7 adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:10-11-2006

MINUTES
October 17, 2006
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
"THE MAISON ROUGE"
1417 Harborside Drive
GALVESTON, TX 77550

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jim Nonus; First Vice-President, Lou Graves MacBeth; Third Vice-President, Lizette Gaudin; Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Second Vice-President, Wil Zapalac; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Coordinator of Research, Pam Keyes; Coordinator of Research, Gary Fretz; Historian (office vacant)

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

MEMBERS & OTHER ATTENDEES: Jay Bangle; Claudette Braly; Paul Collins; Jonathan Collins; Karen Derr; Lady Elizabeth Galloway; Robert Garnham; Pam Gilbert; Clifford Johnson; Sheldon Kindall; Ondree Kuhn; Linda Kuhn; Jeff Modzelewski; George Najarian; Robert and Carolyn Peterson; Ginny Roberts; Kay Schwartz; Tom Shehan; others of the general public not identified

GUEST SPEAKERS: Amy and Dash, professional mediums

CALL TO ORDER

President Jim Nonus called the special event meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a welcome to all attendees and thanks to Diane and R. Dale Olson and others for their labors in clearing the Maison Rouge lot for the event.

First Vice-President Lou MacBeth gave a brief introduction describing her fond memories as a young girl living in the East End of Galveston in the 1940s near the Maison Rouge site where, at that time, the 1885-86 Capt. Hendrick's house was still in existence. Lou gave out Xeroxed copies of a photo showing the three-story mansion with its dormered, Mansard roof as it appeared in 1948.

Advisory Board Member R. Dale Olson spoke of his and his wife Diane's experiences in acquiring ownership of the Maison Rouge site. Dale presented details of history on the house and its existing basement ruin with picturesque, undulating arches, noting the *bas relief* double anchor details on a basement wall facing Harborside Drive. According to several generations of belief, and to Dale, the site of the Maison Rouge is alleged to have been where Jean Laffite had constructed his "Red House" with the engineering assistance of well-known New Orleans engineer and privateer, Bartholomy LaFon.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – *PSYCHIC READINGS BY AMY AND DASH*

Amy and Dash, representing GALVESTON GHOST TOURS, each presented personal psychic readings to determine if deceased spirits were in existence on the property. As attendees gathered in a large circle, hands clasped, to welcome possible spiritual entities, one individual, while appearing to be in a trance, experienced an unexpected spontaneous occurrence of speaking in a foreign tongue, not recognized at the time by most attendees. No pertinent information could be elicited from the subject during this suggested “spirit channeling”.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The President thanked the following persons who had contributed to the night’s event: Third Vice-President/Hospitality Chairman, Lizette Gaudin and George Najarian for Tiki torches, tables, luminarias & set-up which created a unique atmospheric effect; Claudette Braly (appetizer); Kay Schwartz (dessert); Tom Shehan and Pam Gilbert (tables and set-up); Bistro LeCroy: buffet entree and drinks; Diane and Dale Olson for use of their property, Maison Rouge, for the special *ALL HALLOWS EVE* event.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no other business following the presentation, the meeting of October 17, 2006 was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:10/29/2006

\

**MINUTES
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
November 20, 2006
SAM HOUSTON REGIONAL LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTER
LIBERTY, TX 77575-0310**

BOARD PRESENT: President, Jim Nonus; First Vice-President, Lou Graves MacBeth; Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, Nancy Beaman; Editor-of-Publications, Don C. Marler; Archivist, Ed Jamison; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: Second Vice-President, Wil Zapalac; Third Vice-President, Lizette Gaudin; Coordinator-of-Research, Gary Fretz; Coordinator-of-Research, Pam Keyes; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Historian (office vacant)

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

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Ron and Beth Austin; Robert Garnham; Sheldon Kindall; Sybil Marler; Don and B.J. Peak; Betty Wilson

TRAVEL & PREVIEW OF MEETING

The 10 members signed up for travel to Liberty, TX for the special event meeting to view the Jean Laffite collection at the Sam Houston Regional Library assembled at 9:00 a.m. in the historic Galveston home of Member, Kay Schwartz prior to a 9:30 a.m. departure. While in route to their destination in the capable hands of their van chauffeur (President Jim Nonus), R. Dale Olson gave a preview of the day's planned events along with some background history on *The Journal of Jean Laffite*, the original of which, along with related memorabilia, is now on display at the Library as the subject of interest for this date's meeting.

Following a savory lunch at Casa Don Boni Mexican Restaurant in Liberty from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., hosted by Dr. Reginald and Mrs. Betty Wilson, the van travelers, who by then had joined with remaining attendees for the meal, gathered at the Library for the special lecture presentations.

NEW INFORMATION ON JEAN LAFFITE'S DESCENDANTS

To start off the meeting, Dr. Reginald Wilson showed members an original copy of the 1958 translation of *The Journal of Jean Laffite* and a copy of French scholar Gene Marshall's translation, pointing out facts in each and differences between the two. Dr. Wilson then presented a brief report on excerpts from a paper by Benjamin D. Maygarden entitled *The Silent Legacy of the Laffites' Private Lives*, presented at the 47th annual meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association, March 18, 2005, in Lafayette, LA. According to the paper, Maygarden's research suggests that Jean Laffite may have been the father of "Adele", the "natural daughter" of Catherine Villard, who eventually became the mother of 11 children, indicating the possibility of a previously unknown line of descendants of Jean, the celebrated privateer.

ROBERT SCHAADT'S OVERVIEW OF *THE JOURNAL*

Director and Archivist of the Sam Houston Library, Robert Schaadt, discussed the history of *The Journal* and the controversy surrounding its authenticity, as well as evidence of claims of Jean Laffite's death at sea in 1823. Mr. Schaadt expressed his continued interest in efforts to verify the document's authenticity possibly with the aid of new technology, and also urged members to push onward in the search for a primary source of information, which may be in private hands, of the Spanish testimonials relating to the 1821 death and burial of Pierre Laffite in the Yucatan.

LAFFITE COLLECTION

Following the talks, Darlene Mott, Librarian was on hand to show members the main Laffite collection on display – an index of 30 pages consisting of the Gov. Price Daniel collection, the Audrey Lloyd collection, the John Andrechyne Laffite collection, and the Stanley Arthur scrapbook. Members were able to see, inspect and handle books and other items of the Laffite collection as well as Laffite Study Group publications and newsletters.

THE JEAN AND PRICE DANIEL HOUSE

Following the lectures and viewing of the Laffite collection at the Library, Dir. Robert Schaadt conducted a tour of both floors of the former Texas Governor Price Daniel's mansion a short distance from the Library, built in 1984 and, according to the literature, "patterned after the original 1856 plans for the Texas Governor's Mansion". The Greek-style structure with 6 Doric columns now houses mementos of the public life of Gov. and Mrs. Price Daniels who is the great-great-granddaughter of General Sam Houston who practiced law in Liberty, TX during Texas' struggle for independence.

ADKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Society extends thanks and appreciation to Dir. Robert Schaadt, Dr. Reginald Wilson who organized the day's program. Also, to Darlene Mott, Librarian and Linda Young, Research Assistant for arranging the displays of books and other items of interest, and for providing Xeroxed copies of archival lists to members.

Special thanks also to Member-at-Large Kay Schwartz who was unable to attend the lectures but who invited the travelers to her home in the early a.m. for *kolaches* and a hot drink. And to Member Clifford Johnson, also unable to attend, for being wherever he was and always is, ready to assist as needed. Lastly, certainly with gratitude, a heart-felt thanks to "the van chauffeur", President Jim Nonus, for his singular navigational skills along the circuitous routes of the Texas hinterland.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk:11/22/2006

DECEMBER 10, 2007

No meeting held.

**LAFFITE SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY
TROLLEY STOP BUILDING
Buccaneer Banquet Room
GALVESTON, TX**