

January 8, 1996
BOARD MEETING
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY OF GALVESTON
Eiband's Gallery
22nd and Post Office Streets
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

MEMBERS

Board present: President Dale Olson; FVP Jim Nonus; SVP Randy Pace; TVP Diane Olson; Rec./Corresp. Secty. Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, James B. Earthman III

Board absent: Bernadette Foley, Historian; Bill Foley, Coordinator of Research; Lou Graves-MacBeth, Parliamentarian; Kurt Voss, Archivist

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m.

UNUSED SPONSORSHIP FUNDS

The President suggested that members who donated funds toward expenses for the December speaker who canceled out decide if they wish a refund or the money to be designated for another purpose.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Personal checks for membership dues are to be given to Treasurer, Jim Earthman, who will have them xeroxed and then sent to Randy Pace, Membership Chairman.

RENEWAL NOTICES

Membership renewal notices were sent out to all members, along with an announcement of the special event trip to Liberty, Tx. Jan. 13, and a copy of THE CHRONICLES.

CATALOGING RESEARCH MATERIAL

The President emphasized the need for members to establish a procedure for cataloging books, articles, photos, maps, etc. for the Society's archives.

NEW OFFICERS

In accordance with Society By-Laws, the President stated that by the February meeting three persons will have been chosen from the membership to provide a slate of nominees for new officers, to be announced at the April meeting. New officers will take up their duties in August.

AMENDING BY-LAWS

By-laws will be re-written to permit individuals with membership of less than 12 months to be nominated for office.

CANCELING ROOM RESERVATION AT THE ROSENBERG LIBRARY

The Secretary will write a letter of thanks on behalf of the society to Judy Biggs, Office Manager at The Rosenberg Library, for use of the facilities from August, '94 through November, '95, and to advise her that future meetings of the Society will be held at the new Eiband's Gallery in downtown Galveston.

GRATUITIES FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

FVP Jim Nonus suggested that during special event occasions such as wine and cheese gatherings, members might want to consider making a contribution during the event toward payment of refreshments. Balance of contributions after expenses would go into the Society's treasury.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m., followed by a short break before commencement of the General Meeting.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McD. Karilanovic
Rec./Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk

**January 8, 1996
GENERAL MEETING
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY OF GALVESTON
Eiband's Gallery
22nd and Post Office Streets
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550**

MEMBERS

Board present: President Dale Olson; FVP Jim Nonus; SVP Randy Pace; TVP Diane Olson; Rec./Corresp. Secty. Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III

Board absent: Bernadette Foley, Historian; Bill Foley, Coordinator of Research; Parliamentarian, Lou Graves-MacBeth; Archivist, Kurt Voss

Members-at-Large: Don Birkholz, Margaret Earthman, Jean L. Epperson, Charles Kelly, Joel Kirkpatrick, Don Marler, Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski, Richard Rasche, Reginald and Betty Wilson

Guests: Manny Gonella, Pete Grosso, John Kimmerly, Forrest Marler

CALL TO ORDER

The General Meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

MINUTES

The Secretary read the Minutes of November 13 to the group. Minutes were approved as read.

GUESTS WELCOMED AND NEW MEMBERS ACKNOWLEDGED

The President welcomed guests Manny Gonella of **MANNY'S RESTAURANT** on Post Office Street, John Kimmerly, **THE GALVESTON BOOKSTORE**, Pete Grosso, antiques dealer associated with **EIBAND'S GALLERY**, and Forrest Marler, mathematics teacher and son of publisher and member Don Marler.

New members Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski and Don Birkholz were introduced.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks were extended to Manny Gonella who provided a generous tray of Mexican beef "Flautas," crudités and cheeses, courtesy of members Jim and Margaret Earthman for this "premiere" occasion of the Society's meeting at the new Eiband's Gallery.

NEW RESEARCH ACQUISITIONS

Members Jim Nonus, Dale and Diane Olson purchased books during their recent trip New Orleans:

- 1) Père Antoine by Edward F. Murphy (The Country Life Press: Garden City, NY, 1947) first edition.
- 2) New Orleans City Guide, written and compiled by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Program Administration for the City of New Orleans (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1938).
- 3) New Orleans: Facts and Legends by Raymond J. Martinez and Jack D.L. Holmes (Hope Publications, P.O. Box 10062: New Orleans, LA 70121).

On this recent trip to New Orleans, Jan. 2-4, '96, Dale and Diane acquired from Tulane University a xeroxed copy of a thesis written by Harriet Bosh [spelling ?] on Bartélemy LaFon, pirate-architect and associate of the brothers Laffite.

SPONSORSHIP FUNDS

FVP Jim Nonus called for suggestions as to what to do with unused sponsorship funds that had been set aside for Wanda Lee Dicky in December. Betty Wilson moved that funds be held in reserve for a future special event; motion seconded by Jim Nonus.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

For a future program, FVP Jim Nonus mentioned that William Simpson of **SIMPSON GALLERIES** in Houston, former owner of the Laffite Collection now housed at the Southwest Regional Library and Research Center at Liberty, has consented to speak to the Society at one of its meetings.

UP-COMING SPECIAL EVENTS

TVP Diane Olson announced plans for another trip to the Southwest Regional Library and Research Center at Liberty on Saturday, Jan. 13, where members were to receive a tour of the museum, followed by lunch at the home of members Reginald and Betty Wilson. Reginald was to present to members information he had obtained on the Laffites during recent research.

Diane and Jim described their recent three-day trip to Louisiana to plan a special event for the first or second weekend in June. Stops on the way to New Orleans were made at two vintage homes in Tannersville, at Nottoway Plantation, Destrahan Plantation, and Laffite's Landing in Donaldville. The group made a short visit to Lafitte, La. in Barataria Bay, south of New Orleans, but plans for the Society to visit this small town were ruled out for the present.

TVP Diane passed out flyers on possible sites to be visited in Louisiana in June and stated that she and Dale were in the process of obtaining estimates of costs before announcing an outline of the event. The President stated that an attempt was in progress to obtain the best possible hotel rates for members and that consideration would be given to transportation needs for this event for those who can't or do not drive on interstate highways.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jim Earthman stated there was a balance of \$346.08 in the treasury. Membership dues now being submitted should bring the balance up at the next accounting.

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE

The President called for volunteers from the membership for the following assignments:

- 1) Notify The Galveston County Daily News of date and time of meetings.
- 2) Write and send press releases of the Society's aims and meeting dates to newspapers in three states.
- 3) Assist with arrangements for special events.
- 4) Prepare a format for a "proclamation of thanks" to acknowledge the assistance and contributions of members.
- 5) Assist in preparing The Chronicles.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

At the February meeting, the President will name a committee of three persons who will set up a new slate of nominees for officers, to be presented at the April meeting. Election of new officers will take place in July, '96, with duties to begin in August. Additional nominations from the floor can take place at the July meeting.

The President encouraged all members to consider accepting office, if nominated, to make possible a broader base of opportunity for members to contribute their skills and expertise. He further stated that, although nominations for the office of President would be called for, his intention being not to serve again at this time, it was his preference that, because of their

familiarity with the Society's needs gained over the past year, some incumbents in key positions might want to consider remaining in their present offices to insure continuity.

LAFFITE SOCIETY COIN

Member Charles Kelly, a professional glass and metal jewelry craftsman, suggested that the Society consider ideas for a logo to be incorporated into a design for a medallion or coin of its own in bronze or silver.

CATALOGING THE ARCHIVE

The President asked for ideas on how to approach the cataloging of the Society's library and artifacts. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss approaches for this task. Retired archivist and member, Richard Rasche, has offered his assistance, time permitting.

JOHN HOWELLS COLLECTION

The President stated that members might want to consider trying to have Mr. John Howells come to a future meeting to discuss his extensive and controversial research on the Laffites.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the General Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

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SPECIAL LECTURE

The President and TVP Diane gave a re-cap and up-date on the computer scan research done in California on the various pictorial images of Jean Laffite, the goal being to attempt to establish a definitive facial prototype of the privateer.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McD Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk

February 12, 1996
GENERAL MEETING
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
The Eiband Gallery
22nd and Post Office Streets
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

MEMBERS

Board present: Pres., Dale Olson; FVP Jim Nonus; TVP Diane Olson; Rec./Corresp. Secty. Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III; Parliamentarian, Lou Graves-MacBeth

Board absent: Bernadette Foley, Historian; Bill Foley, Coordinator of Research; Randy Pace, Second Vice-President; Kurt Voss, Archivist

Members-at-Large: Manny Green, Margaret Earthman, Jean L. Epperson, Andy and Becki Hall, Patrick Kuhns, Don Marler, Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski, Richard R. Rasche, Dave and Virginia Roberts

Guests: Tom Oertling, Mary Roberts, Bobby Weakley

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The President expressed condolences on behalf of the Society to officers Jim Earthman and Dorothy McD. Karilanovic upon the recent loss of their fathers, and to Andrew Hall, his mother.

MINUTES

The Secretary gave a brief reading of the Minutes, approved as read.

CASH RESERVE FOR REFRESHMENTS

First Vice-President Jim called attention to a request for members to make a small contribution of \$2.00-\$3.00 per meeting to cover the cost of refreshments.

BY-LAWS

President Dale announced that proposed changes to the Society's By-Laws would be written up and copies sent to members for their review.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Third Vice-President Diane gave a brief report of Reginald Wilson's extensive research of correspondence relating to John Lafflin, alleged descendant of Jean Laffite, which he presented at a luncheon hosted by his wife, Betty, and himself on Saturday, January 13, in Dayton during the special event day trip to the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center at Liberty.

Diane announced that plans were under way for a special event trip probably Thursday, June 13 through Sunday, June 16 with visits to Nottoway and Destrehan plantations and New Orleans.

MEMBERSHIP

Three new memberships have been recorded, including THE GALVESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION.

RESEARCH SOURCES

FVP Jim Nonus made available for display a large selection of articles and books from his personal library for the interest and use of members.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The President designated Lou Graves-MacBeth, Dorothy McD. Karilanovic, and Bill Foley as members of the Nominating Committee for new officers. A slate of nominees will be presented at the April meeting; a formal vote taken in July, with new officers taking up duties in August.

ARCHIVE COMMITTEE

Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski and Richard Rasche will constitute a committee to plan the procedures for assembling and recording library material and artifacts of the Society for its archives, to be housed in The Eiband Gallery.

Members were encouraged to assist in this effort by recording bibliographical information on 3 x 5-inch index cards in accordance with specific instructions to be provided by the committee. Information from index cards will eventually be transferred to a computer data base.

SPEAKERS FOR MARCH, '96 MEETING

Noted researchers on Laffite history, Robert Vogel and John Howells, may both be present at the March meeting to discuss their varying points of views on the authenticity of existing archival material on Jean Laffite. In anticipation of the interest that this unique meeting may generate, members were urged to attend and to bring a guest.

Members resolved to use reserve sponsorship funds to cover travel expenses for one of the speakers from out of state.

DONATION TO THE ROSENBERG LIBRARY

Motion made and carried to make a contribution of \$50.00 to The Rosenberg Library.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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SPECIAL LECTURE

Jean L. Epperson discussed her recently completed paper on "The Laffitte Family of Bayou Pierre. In this work she was able to show documented evidence validating that a land grant previously attributed to Pierre Laffite, brother of the privateer Jean, in the controversial journal, The Life of Jean Laffite: Gentleman Privateer, was in fact in the possession of one Pierre Bouet Laffitte, a member of the family Laffitte of Bayou Pierre. The latter are not known to have been related to the famous privateers.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McD. Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

File

**March 11, 1996
GENERAL MEETING
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
Eiband's Gallery
22nd and Post Office Streets
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550**

MEMBERS

Board present: Pres., Dale Olson; FVP Jim Nonus; SVP Randy Pace, TVP Diane Olson; Rec./Corresp. Secty. Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III; Coordinator of Research, Bill Foley; Parliamentarian, Lou Graves-MacBeth

Board absent: Bernadette Foley, Historian; Kurt Voss, Archivist

Members-at-Large: A.J. Billot, Don Birkholz, Margaret Earthman, Jean L. Epperson, Manny Green, Andy and Becki Hall, Victor Lang, Don Marler, Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski, Donald Peak, Richard Rasche, Dave and Ginny Roberts, Reginald and Betty Wilson

Guests: Larry Billot, John C. Crossman, Jr., Steve Curley, Carlos L. Guerguin, Tom Hanney, Margaret S. Henson, Sheldon Kindall, Roberta King, Frederic A. Mann, Bill McMullen, Donald Mark Mize, Eleanor Porter, Joy and Heather Quick, Clyde Riley, Mary A. Roberts, Oury and Miriam Selig, Ken Shelton, Kara Smathers, Max and Gloria Spangle, Robert C. Vogel, Marsha Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

MINUTES

To give more time to the speaker for the evening, the General Meeting was very brief. The President decided to dispense with reports and the reading of the Minutes. Minutes unapproved.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The President and Third Vice-President gave a brief description of the special event June trip to Louisiana June 13 through June 16, urging those who intend to participate to make their hotel reservations as soon as possible. A sign-up list for participants was circulated. Those attending will receive a trip agenda in the near future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dale acknowledged visiting speaker Robert C. Vogel and extended appreciation on behalf of the Board to Jim Nonus, Margaret and Jim Earthman for coordinating the arrangements for the evening's reception.

NEW MEMBERS

The President welcomed new members Donald Peak, Victor Lang, and A.J. Billot.

BY-LAWS

Motion carried to delay notification of voting on changes to By-Laws until the May meeting.

NEW RESEARCH ACQUISITIONS

Dr. Reginal Wilson presented to the Society for its archives the following items, amongst others.

- 1) A xeroxed copy of The Corsair by Madeleine F. Kent.
- 2) A xeroxed copy (in French) of "The Journal," the handwritten text on Jean Laffite's life, the original of which is at the Sam Houston Research Center and Library at Liberty, Texas.
- 3) An album of reproduced copies of photos of members of the Laffite family, originals of which are in the Sam Houston Research Center and Library.

Mr. A.J. Billot contributed xeroxed copies of a tracking chart and listing of the "Major Texas Hurricanes, 1854-70 with dates, locations, and a brief description on extent of damage to the communities affected.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The brief General Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

* * * *

SPECIAL LECTURE

Robert C. Vogel

Robert C. Vogel, writer, historian, archaeologist - Director of the Louisiana Historical Association, presented an extensive discussion of a "check list" he had prepared of published works on Jean Laffite in American literature through the year 1958. Noting that an actual literary history came into being about 1812, his focal question was: How did the great body of literature take form? Some major sources for data were cited:

- 1) Major national archives of France, Spain, Mexico, Great Britain, and the United States.
- 2) Three large groups of verifiable documents in Cuba, Louisiana, and Texas.
- 3) Personal records of contemporaries of Jean Laffite.
- 4) Material from various library archives

Members received copies of an extensive list of historical sources of information on Jean Laffite including texts, newspaper articles, personal correspondence, film works.

Mr. Vogel stated that after a long period of research on the lives and activities of the Laffites, his conjecture as to their final destinies was that they probably ended their days in the Yucatan, most likely in a state of near poverty, the great bulk of their wealth having been spent for legal fees over the years. He noted that requests for Letters of Marque in Jean Laffite's name had ceased after 1824.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Rec./Corresp. Secretary,
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

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April 8, 1996

GENERAL MEETING
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
Eiband's Gallery
22nd and Post Office Streets
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

MEMBERS

Board Present: First Vice-President Jim Nonus; Rec./Corresp.
Secretary, Dorothy MCD. Karilanic; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III

Board Absent: Pres., Dale Olson; SVP Randy Pace; TVP Diane Olson; Coordinator of Research, Bill Foley; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Archivist, Kurt Voss; Parliamentarian, Lou Graves-MacBeth

Members-at-Large: Jean L. Epperson, Charles Kelly, Joel B. Kirkpatrick, Don Marler, Kathy & Jeff Modzelewski, Don Peak, Richard Rasche, Dave and Ginny Roberts, Dr. Reginald Wilson, Mrs. Betty Wilson

Guests: Ed and Betty Conner, Dr. Randall Bland, Mrs. Betty Bland

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

MINUTES

The Minutes were not read or approved due to short business meeting to allow more time for the special speaker.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

No reports were given.

LOUISE NICHOLS OF YESTERDAY'S BOOKS

A Round-Table discussion was held with Louise Nichols, owner of Yesterday's Books, a Galveston Bookstore specializing in Gulf Coast history. Mrs. Nichols handed out a book list and brought various examples of works from her inventory focusing on history of the Southwest, Texas and Louisiana, on piracy and Laffite lore. She explained the different services available in locating hard-to-find and out-of-print books and offered to provide for display on occasion at meetings a selection of titles of interest for purchase by members who may want to add to their book collections or donate to the Society's archive.

UPDATE ON RESEARCH INTERESTS

Members each described the research and reading interests they are pursuing. Reginald Wilson presented an extensive description of the numerous items of historical information he is donating to the Society's archive, original sources of which are at the Sam Houston Library and Research Center at Liberty, TX and in personal collections. Reginald stated that he had arranged with the Sam Houston Library to copy without charge for the Society's archive any documents that members might want to contribute pertaining to the Laffite collection there.

CHARLES CRONEA MARKER UP-DATE

Joel Kirkpatrick announced that the application for an historical marker for the grave site of Charles Cronea of High Island, TX. had been approved by the state historical commission and that Galveston County would pay the expense of having the marker made and placed on site.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Rec./Corresp. Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk

May 13, 1996

**GENERAL MEETING
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
The Eiband's Gallery
22nd and Post Office Streets
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550**

MEMBERS

Board Present: Jim Nonus, First Vice-President; Rec./Corresp. Secretary, Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Bill Foley, Coordinator of Research; Bernadette Foley, Historian

Board Absent: Dale Olson, Pres.; SVP Randy Pace; TVP Diane Olson; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III; Archivist, Kurt Voss; Parliamentarian, Lou Graves-MacBeth

Members-at-Large: A.J. Billot, Larry Billot, Jean L. Epperson, Charles Kelly, Don Marler, Jeff & Kathy Modzelewski, Richard Rasche, Dave and Ginnie Roberts, Betty and Reginald Wilson, Will Zapalac

Guests: Charles Duke, Irene Duke, Mary Francis and George Nigerian, Charlotte Stilgenbauer, Glenn Stilgenbauer, Judith Roberts, Elizabeth Roberts, Fred Wichlep

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

MINUTES

The Secretary read the Minutes of April 8.

SIGNATURES FOR CHECKING ACCOUNT

The Secretary stated that since the last meeting, she had given to the FVP a copy of an original letter addressed to the U.S. National Bank regarding the requirement of having two signatures on file for The Laffite Society account. The letter, dated Jan. 16, was composed by herself at the request of the LS Treasurer's secretary and written over the LS Secretary's signature and that of Jim Earthman, Treasurer. This copy was to replace the original which had been hand-delivered on Jan. 16 to Mr. Earthman's office

for his signature and which had subsequently become lost and therefore never acted on. The FVP stated he had given the copy of the letter to Mr. Earthman's secretary for signature and forwarding to the U.S. National Bank.

Decision pending as to whether a second signature, in addition to that of the Treasurer, is required on The Laffite Society account at the U.S. National Bank.

GALVESTON BAY CHARTS

Bill Foley, Coordinator of Research, said the National Archives had responded to his inquiry, stating that they did not have any charts of Galveston Bay prior to 1874, but that the Library of Congress does.

PERSONAL PHOTOS OF THE HOLIDAY PARTY

Bernadette Foley brought snapshots taken at The Laffite Society's Holiday Party in December.

MEMBERSHIP

FVP Jim stated that the LS received a renewal on 4/19/96 from the Historic New Orleans Collection on Royal Street, New Orleans.

ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG AT THE MAISON ROUGE SITE

FBP Jim announced to members that Jean Epperson had given him today two letters to her dated April 19 and May 3 in which Sheldon Kindall outlined plans for archeological excavation of part of the property at the Jean Lafitte "Maison Rouge" site on Harborside Drive. A proposed date for a class/orientation for persons interested in taking part in the dig is Saturday, June 29, with excavation to extend over the following 6 to 7 Saturdays.

Decision on plans deferred until President Dale Olson, who is absent from the City can discuss the matter further with Sheldon Kindall.

AN ALIAS FOR JEAN LAFFITE (Genealogical Notes by A.J. Billot)

Member, A.J. Billot, gave a discussion of his on-going genealogical research on his Louisiana family. Using an extensive genealogical outline as his guide, copies of which he provided for members, Mr. Billot stated that his searches have led him to conclude that Jean Pierre Billot, born in Bayonne, France, Nov. 17, 1749, died May 17, 1826 in Barataria Bay, LA, was otherwise known as Jean Laffite, the famous corsair.

Mr. Billot further stated that for generations the traditionally close-mouthed and clannish "old timers" in the region of Barataria have maintained to the locals of the area that Jean Laffite, AKA Jean Pierre Billot, perished in a battle with rival

pirates during a mutiny of his crew, and that he and the men who died with him were buried in the Bay of Barataria.

In addition, Mr. Billot called to member's attention the fact it once was the custom of the Catholic Church to register the names of individuals in the various parishes by changing the spelling of the last few letters of surnames to indicate differences in ethnic background and social status (e.g. persons of Spanish, French, Indian and African-American origin and those of slave and "freed men" status). Often, too, he added, the spellings of names changed over time, often retaining only an approximate phonetic pronunciation compared with the original. This may be a reason, he concluded, why confirming the identities of historical persons in certain cultures is often difficult and unproductive.

Included in the hand-out for Mr. Billot's talk was a xeroxed copy of an official Certificate of Baptism from the Archdiocese of New Orleans Archives, for Marie Josephe Lafite [sic], born 29 October 1810, child of Pierre Lafite, "native of Bayonne, France," and Adelaide Maseleri, "resident of St. Louis of Jeremie, St. Dominique" [Santo-Domingo].

1829 MAP OF TEXAS

FVP Jim Nonus spoke briefly about a finely-detailed map he recently acquired, an original print, 25 x 19 1/2 inches in size, showing the site of Champ d'Asile ("Field of Refuge). The design and execution of the map was carried out under the auspices of General Lallemand, former officer in Napoleon's army and one of the founders of the French settlement.

Members were given 8 1/2 x 11 sized, high quality xeroxed copies, in color, of an enlarged section of the map showing the words "Champ D'Axile [sic] abandonné" (abandoned Champ D'Asile) and its location, designated by a small dotted circle, on the eastern bank of the Trinity River.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM PATRICK LAFITTE

The Secretary reported she had received a reply to her letter of April 2, 1996 from Patrick Lafitte of Corneilla del Vercol, France, who claims descent from Jean Laffite. In his letter, dated April 27, Mr. Lafitte expressed his thanks for the response, for a copy of the Chronicles, and a list of the publications on Laffite prior to 1958 compiled by Robert Vogel which the Secretary had included in her letter. He further stated that he is interested in becoming a member of the Society.

Mr. Lafitte states that he is continuing research on verification of dates of birth, marriage, death of members of Jean Laffite's family, allegedly written down in Jean's hand in the "Laffite-Lafflin-Mortimer Bible" (his reference). Enclosed with

Patrick's letter were copies of official correspondence from several towns in France stating that no trace of the dates he submitted to them for verification could be found in either parish or civil registers in the cities of Digne (Ville-de Digne-Les Bains) (birth place of Marie, older sister of Jean & Pierre); DAX (birth place of Maria Zora Nadrimal, mother of the brothers); PONTARLIER, Franche-Comté (birth place of Marcus, father of Jean & Pierre); LANDES, Mont de Marsan (no trace of surname Lafitte in parish records for the years 1537 to 1792).

Mr. Lafitte pledged his continuing interest in the Laffite Society of Galveston and sends his assurance "from his side" that he will provide the Society with any information he discovers pertaining to the lives of the brothers Laffite.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk

File

June 10, 1996

GENERAL MEETING
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
The Eiband's Gallery
22nd and Post Office Streets
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

MEMBERS

Board Present: Dale Olson, Pres.; Jim Nonus, FVP; Diane Olson, TVP; Rec./Corresp. Secty., Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III; Bill Foley, Coordinator of Research; Bernadette Foley, Historian; Lou Graves-MacBeth, Parliamentarian

Board Absent: Randy Pace, SVP; Kurt Voss, Archivist

Members-at-Large: Don Birkholz, Charles Duke, Irene Duke, Jean L. Epperson, Charles Kelly, Joel B. Kirkpatrick, Kathy & Jeff Modzelewski; George and Mary Francis Najarian, Richard R. Rasche, Dave and Ginny Roberts

Guests: W.T. and Helga Block, Johnny Carlson, Sharon E. Clanahan, Cindy, Stephanie, and Charles Eddy, William E. Leopold, Linda McBee, Margaret E. McCaskill, Judith Roberts, Elizabeth Roberts, Beverly Rudy, Elaine Smith, Bobby Weakley, Charlotte and Cheren (sp. ?) Westerlage

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The President thanked First Vice-President Jim Nonus and other Board Members for presiding at the meetings and carrying out the business of the Society in his absence.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Third Vice-President Diane Olson stated that a boat trip to Virginia Point is being planned for August and also a Galveston harbor cruise with "Commodore" Victor Lang who is also a Laffite Society member.

A brief description of the June 13-16 special event trip to Louisiana was presented to members. Diane announced that at the end of the meeting, specially prepared itineraries for the trip would be handed out to those participating.

MINUTES

Due to time limits, Minutes of the May 13 meeting were not read.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jim Earthman, reported a balance of \$826.08 in the Society's treasury.

RESEARCH

Bill Foley stated he had written for information on charts available for Galveston harbor for the years 1819, 1821, and 1822.

PHOTOS OF JEAN LAFFITE

TVP Diane offered for members' interest two views in color of a wax, life-like image of Jean Laffite in a ship's deck setting, obtained from a wax museum in San Antonio and presented to the Society by Ken Olson.

STATUETTE OF JEAN LAFFITE

Member, Joel B. Kirkpatrick, presented the Society with a statuette of Jean Laffite, approximately 20 inches in height and cast in a composite, plaster-like material, with a simulated bronze color of dark red. The figure brandishes a sword. Mary Faye Barnes, of the Texas Historical Commission in Galveston, who gave the statue to Mr. Kirkpatrick to present to the Society, stated that it was originally in the Galveston Court House.

CHARLES CRONEA GRAVE MARKER

Joel Kirkpatrick read to members the commemorative wording for the Charles Cronea historical marker to be placed on his grave site at High Island, Texas. The marker, the casting of which is being underwritten by Galveston County, will be 27 inches wide by 42 inches in length and will be affixed to a post. A dedication ceremony is planned.

Joel presented the Society with a xeroxed copy of the marker's inscription for its archives.

RESEARCH ACQUISITIONS

Dale Olson donated to the Society xeroxed copies of the following works:

- 1) The Journal of Jean Laffite, the Privateer-Patriot, by Jean A. Laffite, Vantage Press, 1958.
- 2) Jean Laffite, Gentleman Rover, by Stanley Clisby Arthur, Harmanson Publishers, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1952.

Don Marler donated a xeroxed copy of the following:

My Historic Natchitoches, Louisiana and its Environment, by Louis Raphael Nardini, Sr.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

* * *

SPECIAL LECTURE

Mr. W.T. Block presented a talk on the life of James Campbell, born in County Kerry, Ire. in 1786. Mr. Block has a number of published articles and is considered the foremost authority on the life and times of James Campbell, privateer, close associate and "right hand" of Jean Laffite. Campbell had been at various times in his life a fighter in the Confederate Army in the War Between the States, a stockman and a farmer. He is often referred to in the context of the "mutiny on the Hotspur" of which he was Captain and on which Charles Cronea was a cabin boy. James Campbell married Mary Chabineaux of Louisiana and spent most of his life in the Galveston-Bolivar-Texas City area.

Mr. Block presented to members xeroxed copies of several articles he had written on Texas history, among them, "The Legend of John Fletcher's Buried Treasure."

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk

July 9, 1996

GENERAL MEETING
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
The Eiband's Gallery
22nd and Post Office Streets
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

MEMBERS

Board Present: Dale Olson, Pres.; Jim Nonus, FVP, Diane Olson, TVP; Rec./Corresp. Secty., Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III; Bill Foley, Coordinator of Research

Board Absent: Randy Pace, SVP; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Archivist, Kurt Voss; Parliamentarian, Lou Graves-MacBeth

Members-at-Large: Charles Duke, Irene Duke, Jean L. Epperson, Manny Green, Don Marler, Jeff & Kathy Modzelewski, Tom Oertling, Dave & Ginny Roberts, Reginald & Betty Wilson, Wil Zapalac

GUESTS: Don Birkholz, John T. Carter, Harry G. Daves, Jr., Frances & Joe Harris, Wanda Huffman, Jennifer Kowalik, Sen. Jerry Patterson, Larry R. Pierce, Dr. Ron Rea, Judith Roberts, Elizabeth Roberts, Beverly Rudy, Charles B. Sanders, Jr., La Nell Seay

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

TVP Diane Olson mentioned that 22 members and guests had participated in the special event trip to New Orleans June 13-16, 1996.

The Society received from Steele Loubière, resident of Plaquemine, LA, two clippings showing a group photo taken on the side porch of his house presently under restoration in Old Turnersville, and one showing Dale Olson giving a Laffite Society presentation certificate to Steele, his mother Jo-Ann, father, Clyde, and niece, Tia, in acknowledgement of their hospitality to the travelers during the special event trip. These photos were reprinted from a Plaquemine newspaper, Post/South, Thursday, June 20, 1996.

Charles B. Sanders, Jr., a guest at this event, presented two enlarged color photos of the same settings which he had taken of the group for the Society's archives.

Diane stated that information regarding the boat trip to Virginia Point will be announced at the August meeting.

MINUTES

The Secretary read the Minutes of the June 10th meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jim Earthman, reported approximately \$1,200 in the Society's treasury.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A family membership for Tom and Sarita Oertling was renewed.

NOMINATION OF NEW OFFICERS

The Secretary read to members the slate of nominees for the Board. A vote was taken and officers elected are as follows:

President: Dale Olson; FVP, Jean L. Epperson (Programs); SVP, Kathy Modzelewski (Membership); TVP, Jim Nonus (Special Events); Rec./Corresp. Secty., Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III; Coordinator of Research, Bill Foley; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Archivist, Richard R. Rasche; Editor of Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson; EX-OFFICIO ADVISOR, Historical Preservation, Randy Pace.

At the August meeting, an outline of responsibilities for Board member positions will be discussed and refined.

CHARTS OF GALVESTON HARBOR

Coordinator of Research, Bill Foley, reported he had received from Richmond, VA, a reply to a recent letter inquiring about early charts of Galveston Bay, informing him that none were available. He was provided with further information in order to continue the search.

Tom Oertling mentioned that a copy of the 1816 map of Galveston Bay, obtained by purchase for the Society's archives in 1995 from the National Mexican Archives, is housed in The Rosenberg Library. In further discussion, Tom mentioned three which he believes are the earliest:

1. The "De la Harpe Map" (ca. 1779).
2. The 1816 map mentioned above, cartographer unknown, formerly thought to have been drawn by Bartélémy LaFon and dated 1810.
3. The 1828 map by Alexander Thompson of the Mexican Navy.

RE-CAP OF ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG

Newly elected SVP, Kathy Modzelewski, presented a well-outlined report on the archeological investigation presently underway at 1417 Harborside Drive (formerly, Ave. A), the alleged site of the Laffite dwelling, Maison Rouge. Excavation and investigation, resumed again on June 29, is under the auspices of The Texas Archeological Society and the Houston Archeological Society. Physicist and archeologist, Sheldon Kindall, is directing the project.

Kathy provided members with xeroxed copies of two recent news articles on the dig, reprinted from The Galveston County Daily News.

NEWLY FORMED ARCHEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

The President named the following persons to constitute an Archeological Committee to examine and classify the contents of about 122 boxes of artifacts presently in storage, retrieved from the Maison Rouge site during excavation in 1984-85:

Committee Members: Tom & Sarita Oertling, Andy & Becki Hall

RECOGNITION OF TOM OERTLING, AUTHOR

The President called members' attention to a book, soon to be published, by nautical archeologist and Laffite Society member, Tom Oertling. This work, based on Tom's Master's thesis, is on the subject of "ships' bilge pumps," and is being published in a nautical archeological monograph series by Texas A & M. Tom stated he plans to give a talk in the fall on the book at Galveston's Seaport Museum.

NEW RESEARCH ACQUISITIONS

Dr. Reginald Wilson discussed historical information he had obtained during recent research, and presented for the Society's archives xeroxed copies relating to the following:

1. The name of Laffite's secretary possibly being a man by the name of Grammaton.
2. Letter from Jean Laffite to U.S. President Madison requesting return of his goods impounded by order of New Orleans' Governor Clairborne at Grande Terre, LA.
3. A reference to Pierre Cherbonnier as Laffite's secretary and bookkeeper on Grande Terre.
4. Letter of Marque (1813) from Carthage for Laffite's ship, "The President."
5. From Laffite researcher, John Howells, two pages of samples of Jean Laffite's signatures for analytical comparison, also citing the source of each.
6. From the Missouri Historical Society, correspondence regarding burials prior to incorporation of the Wesleyan Cemetery.
7. From the Alton Telegraph News, a file of copies of all news articles published on Jean Laffite in Alton, IL.

In addition, Dave Roberts, contributed xeroxed copies of articles mentioning points along the Gulf Coast used by Laffite and his men, such as Rockport, Cedar Bayou, St. Joseph's Island (southwest part), where he is said to have maintained a fort of his own); and False Live Oak Point, where a final meeting of the privateer and his men is said to have occurred after they had been routed by the British and American navies. This information came from Texas Coastal Bend: People and Places, by Alpha Kennedy Wood.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the General Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m for a short break prior to the special talk.

* * *

SPECIAL LECTURER

Newly elected Editor of Publications, Jeff Modzelewski, gave an amusing and informative talk on the definition of what MYTH is, the different kinds, how they arise and grow in importance, particularly when there is a scarcity of hard facts; and what social, psychological, and historical purposes myth-making, and demythologizing, serve.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dmk

August 12, 1996

GENERAL MEETING
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
The Eiband Gallery
22nd and Postoffice Streets
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

MEMBERS

Board Present: Second Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; TVP, Jim Nonus; Rec./Corresp. Secty., Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic; Editor-of-Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Coordinator of Research, Bill Foley; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Press Director, Dave Roberts

Board Absent: President, Dale Olson; FVP Jean L. Epperson; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III; Archivist, Richard Rasche; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

Members-at-Large: Don Birkholz, Charles Duke, Irene Duke, Becki Hall, George Najarian, Louise T. Nichols, Reginald & Betty Wilson, Ginny Roberts

Guests: Ernie & Michelle Farrow, Lissa Minnielli, Nora & Jack Mitchell, Larry Pierce, Jessie Vaughn

CALL TO ORDER

Third-Vice President Jim Nonus called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m., following a brief gathering for members and guests to enjoy refreshments he had provided for the group.

MINUTES

Minutes were not reviewed at meeting time. Copies were distributed to Board Members present for their review.

SPECIAL EVENTS

TVP Jim Nonus announced that instead of a formal meeting in September, members will meet at The Strand Street Theatre to view the vintage film The Buccaneer. Proceeds from a suggested \$5.00 donation from non-members will be divided equally between The Strand Street Theatre and The Laffite Society, after expenses for refreshments.

ANTIQUÉ MAPS

Louise T. Nichols of YESTERDAY'S BOOKS, 101 21st Street, Galveston, provided a table display of 13 French maps dating from 1757 to 1868, as well as numerous books on Texas and Louisiana history for the interest of members.

THE "BUCCANEERS" OF LAKE CHARLES

Jack Mitchell, accompanied by his wife, Nora, described the recreational and entertainment events put on by "The Buccaneers," the spiritual heirs of "The Contrabanders," a 35-year-old social club with some 100 members representing Lake Charles and southwest Louisiana. The group dresses in pirate attire for their lively staged public performances complete with militia and cannon raids with real gun powder.

PHOTOS OF THE MAISON ROUGE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Larry Pierce, a regular participant in the recent archeological investigation occurring at the Maison Rouge dig site on Harborside Drive, displayed photos he had taken of the project and of those taking part in it. The project, begun with a grid setting on 7/22/96 and carried out on successive Saturdays, is currently on hold until the owners of the site return to the city to confer with Sheldon Kindall and others directing the work.

LA SALLE'S SHIP

Becki Hall gave a description of the archeological investigation currently underway on the wreckage of the French ship "La Belle," commanded by La Salle, which foundered about 10 miles off shore inside Matagorda Bay in 12-15 feet of water during a hurricane in about 1686. A 6-foot, 800 lb. bronze cannon was the first recent, large artifact of note retrieved from the site. According to Becki, archeologists are employing a "cofferdam," a cylindrical structure to enclose the site with pilings sunk 41 feet into the seabed, 50 x 80 feet in diameter inside dimensions, and 100-150 feet, outside dimensions. The dam extends about 5-6 feet above the surface of the water. Water will be drained from within the cylinder to permit work and retrieval of artifacts. The project is being conducted under the direction of The Texas Historical Commission.

LAFFITE HANDWRITING STUDY

Reginald Wilson mentioned that he and others on the Board were beginning a study of the details and characteristics of various samples of Jean Laffite's handwriting. Reginald has provided the Society with several copies of letters allegedly written by Laffite, the originals of which were in the Cabildo at New Orleans and eventually acquired by the University of Texas Parsons'

Collection. Copies of these are now in the Society's archives for the interest of members who might like to participate in this study.

VERIFICATION OF THE CHAMP D'ASILE FORT SITE

Reginald Wilson reported on the findings of Mr. Charles Fisher, a local business man and long-time historian in Dayton who had worked closely with former Governor Price Daniels to locate the original site of the fort at Champ D'Asile. According to affidavits now in Mr. Fisher's possession, the original site of the Fort was located "between the highway 90 bridge and about a block over the railroad bridge" in a particular area. It was concluded from this search that the Fort site is now under water in the Trinity River.

INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF LAFITTE NAMES

The Secretary reported that today's date she had received correspondence from new member Patrick Lafitte of Corneilla del Vercol, in the Eastern Pyrenees, France, who sent the Society a list containing over 2,000 persons with the family name of LaFitte, located in the U.S., France, Great Britain, Northern Island, New Zealand, Canada, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and South Africa.

ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF LAFITTE

According to the Secretary, new member Patrick Lafitte in France has also sent for the Society's interest and Archives a copy of the LaFitte armorial bearings, with its description. In his letter, Patrick states the armorial dates back to the Middle Ages when the name "LaFitte" originated. Patrick explains the meaning of the word, the basis of the name, which, "Fitte," being a stone used to set boundaries. The persons whose job it was to delimit property with such stones were often referred to as "LaFitte." The secretary will place a copy of this information in the Society's Archives, along with a translation into English of Patrick LaFitte's recent letter of July 6, 1996.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the Third Vice-President adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Secretary, THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

9/16
SEPTEMBER, 1996

NO LAFFITE SOCIETY MEETING HELD

"SPECIAL EVENT"

FILM

THE BUCCANEER
(1938)

THE STRAND THEATRE

2317 Ship's Mechanic Row

GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

Corrected version

October 14, 1996

BOARD MEETING

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
The Eiband Gallery
22nd and Postoffice Streets
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

MEMBERS

BOARD PRESENT: President Dale Olson; Second-Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Third Vice-President Jim Nonus (present until 6:45 p.m.); Recording/Corresp. Secty. Dorothy McD. Karilanovic; Editor-of-Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Coordinator of Research, Bill Foley; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: FVP Jean L. Epperson; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

ISSUES AND DIRECTIONS

The President read from a list of issues prepared by Jeff Modzelewski for presentation to LS members. Topics included for consideration were:

- 1) Present and future objectives of the Society
- 2) Topics and featured speakers for monthly meetings
- 3) A more detailed Mission Statement
- 4) More support for the Society's infrastructure

CHANGE OF LECTURE FORMAT

Members agreed that speakers at future meetings will give their presentations prior to the business meetings in order to permit those who have to travel to leave early.

PROGRAM ALTERNATIVES

Board members considered the possibility of alternating special lectures with workshop or committee sessions to be held during regular meeting times. This will allow members to begin working on the classification and cataloguing of library materials and archeological artifacts at these times.

CHANGE OF MEETING DATE

Members will consider a change in the meeting date of the LS from the second Monday of the month to the second Tuesday or Wednesday.

An alternative arrangement would be to keep the Monday meeting date, but move the meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS' DUTIES

A tentative list of officers' duties for the various Board positions, prepared by the President and the Secretary, was briefly discussed.

SPECIAL EVENTS

TVP and Special Events Chairman Jim Nonus mentioned that at the Sept. special movie event, Jean Landry had proposed that members make another visit to Grand Isle and Grande Terre in February or March, when tides in the Bay are low and permit better accessibility to Grande Terre.

Jim suggested that during the trip members spend a day or two at the notarial archives in New Orleans to obtain samples of Laffite signatures, or, as the need may be, time on some other research project in that area.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the Board meeting was adjourned at about 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McD. Karilanovic
Rec./Corres. Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

October 14, 1996

GENERAL MEETING

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
The Eiband Gallery
22nd and Postoffice Streets
GALVESTON, TX. 77550

MEMBERS

BOARD PRESENT: President Dale Olson; Second-Vice-President, Kathy Modzelewski; Third Vice-President Jim Nonus; Recording/Corresp. Secty. Dorothy McD. Karilanovic;; Editor-of-Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Coordinator of Research, Bill Foley; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Press Director, Dave Roberts; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

BOARD ABSENT: FVP Jean L. Epperson; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Becki Hall, Joel B. Kirkpatrick, Bill Leopold, Ginny Roberts, Wil Zapalac

CALL TO ORDER

President Dale Olson called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The President expressed thanks on behalf of the Society to Jeff Modzelewski, Kathy Modzelewski, Jim Nonus, Dorothy Karilanovic, and others who had contributed to the preparation and publication of the third issue of the Chronicles, Vol. II, No. 1, January, 1996.

MINUTES

The Secretary read the Minutes of the August 12 meeting. Minutes were approved with one correction.

UPDATED MEMBERSHIP LISTS

SVP and Membership Chairman Kathy Modzelewski announced that a newly updated membership list, application form and membership information form had been prepared. Copies of the list were available at the meeting and will be sent out to all the membership.

SPECIAL EVENTS

TVP and Special Events Chairman, Jim Nonus, was absent from the General Meeting. President Dale Olson reported that, in a conversation Jim had had with Jean Landry and Robert Looper at the Sept. Special Event, members had been invited back to Grand Isle and Grande Terre, LA in February or March, '97. According to Jean Landry of Grand Isle, tides are low at that time of year which would make accessibility to Grande Terre easier. A majority of the membership present voted in favor of the trip.

A trip to Nachitoches at a later date will be considered.

COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

Editor-of-Publications, Jeff Modzelewski suggested the creation of a reference that would include important historical figures, dates, and events of interest to LS members. This would be published in THE CHRONICLES and kept current through periodic updates by members.

Jim Nonus had suggested earlier at the Board Meeting that the LS have a document formatted like a dictionary, to include significant bibliographic and historic information to show how this information relates to the Laffites.

LAFFITE COAT-OF-ARMS

The Secretary gave out xeroxed copies of a Lafitte Crest, dating back to the Middle-Ages, provided by member-at-large Patrick Lafitte of Corneilla del Vercol, France. The Secretary provided copies for Society archives of the following documents contributed by Patrick Lafitte:

- 1) A xeroxed copy of an International Register of about 2,000 names and addresses of persons with the surname Lafitte, located in several countries.
- 2) A colored magazine-sized page showing a ship named the JEAN LAFITTE which Patrick thought was located either in Mérida or Cancún.
- 3) Xeroxed copies of two versions of the Laffite Coat-of-Arms, one in Blue and Gold showing three Black Owls on a Field of Gold, with descriptive information of the meaning of the symbols of the Crest.

The Secretary also included for the Archives a copy of a transcription and translation of Patrick Lafitte's letter of 7/6/96, describing documents he had sent.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report was available.

PHOTO ALBUM OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Historian, Bernadette Foley, reported that she is assembling and will maintain an album of photos taken during special events.

CHRONICLES

Editor-of-Publications Jeff Modzelewski announced that the third issue of The Laffite Chronicles was now available. Copies were displayed for members to take home, and will be mailed out to all the paid membership, along with up-dated membership lists. Jeff thanked those who had given time and helped in the preparation of the publication.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE BOARD

A list of duties for Board Officers, prepared by the President and Secretary, was discussed. Copies will be given to Board members to help them become more familiar with the responsibilities of their offices.

Editor, Jeff, emphasized the importance of Board and committee members becoming familiar with and carrying out the duties of their offices to insure a fair and equitable distribution of administrative tasks.

PRESS RELEASES

President, Dale, suggested for consideration that press releases on information relating to the Laffite Society be sent to a list of various newspapers in Louisiana and Texas. Press Director Dave Roberts stated that such information might be submitted in a Letter-to-the-Editor format.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Discussion on the possibility of establishing funds for a professional researcher.

ARTIFACTS FROM THE 1984 DIG AT MAISON ROUGE

Member-at-large Becki Hall volunteered to begin inspecting artifacts collected from the 1984 excavation at 1417 Harborside Dr., now housed locally.

NEW RESEARCH ACQUISITIONS

President, Dale, offered for members to view the following two books:

- 1) Honor and Fidelity by Jack D.L. Homes (includes a registry of military personnel in the Laffite era).
- 2) All the Days of My Life by Amelia E. Barr, a former resident of Galveston. Published 1888 and 1913.

SVP Kathy Modzelewski provided information on how to obtain a French American calendar for '97, published by the Alliance Franco-Américaine du Midwest, Chicago, IL.; phone, 312)643-7865.

Member-at-large Joel B. Kirkpatrick donated to the Society's archives copies of prints of early depictions of Galveston Bay.

A news clipping donated at the meeting was a review of a book describing the harsh and often cruel conditions existing under the institution of piracy:

UNDER THE BLACK FLAG:THE ROMANCE AND THE REALITY OF LIFE AMONG THE PIRATES by David Cordingley, pub. by Random House, \$25.00

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the General Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Secretary, THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk

4-16
November 11, 1996

BOARD MEETING

**THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
The Eiband Gallery
22nd and Postoffice Streets
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550**

MEMBERS

BOARD PRESENT: First Vice-President (FVP): Jean L. Epperson; SVP, Kathy Modzelewski; TVP (until 6:45 p.m.), Jim Nonus; Rec./Corresp.Secretary, Dorothy McD Karilanovic; Editor-of-Publications, Jeff Modzelewski; Archivist, Richard R. Rasche; Historian, Bernadette Foley; Press Director, Dave Roberts.

EX-OFFICIO: Randy Pace

BOARD ABSENT: President, Dale Olson; Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III; Coordinator of Research, Bill Foley; Parliamentarian, Diane Olson.

CALL TO ORDER

FVP Jean Epperson called the Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES OF BOARDING MEETING OF OCT. 14

The Minutes of the Board Meeting were not reviewed at this time.

CHANGE OF MEETING DATE

The LS meeting date will be held the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Motion to change was made by Jim Nonus, seconded by Randy Pace.

BY-LAWS

A committee to consider amendments to By-Laws was appointed consisting of Jim Nonus, Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski, and Dorothy McD. Karilanovic.

A letter will be sent to members in December describing changes of By-Laws to be voted on in January.

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

The date and place chosen for the Society's Holiday party will be Tuesday, Dec. 10, at The Eiband Gallery. Membership Chair, Kathy, and TVP Jim Nonus will compose an invitation to send to members.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business of the Board, meeting adjourned at 7:10 for a short break prior to Special Presentation.

Submitted by

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

\dk

November 11, 1996

GENERAL MEETING

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY
The Eiband Gallery
22nd and Postoffice Streets
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

MEMBERS

BOARD PRESENT: FVP Jean L. Epperson, SVP, Kathy Modzelewski;
Rec./Corres. Secty. Dorothy McD. Karilanovic;
Editor-of-Publications, Jeff Modzelewski;
Archivist, Richard R. Rasche; Coordinator of
Research, Bill Foley; Historian Bernadette
Foley; Press Director, Dave Roberts.

EX-OFFICIO: Randy Pace

BOARD ABSENT: President, Dale Olson; TVP Jim Nonus,
Treasurer, James B. Earthman, III;
Parliamentarian, Diane Olson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Don Birkholz, Charles Kelly, Bill
Leopold, Don Marler, George Najarian,
Reginald and Betty Wilson

GUESTS: Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Kindall

CALL TO ORDER

First Vice-President Jean Epperson called the General Meeting to order at 7:30. In keeping with the new meeting format, the speaker for the evening gave his presentation first, prior to the business of the General Meeting. (A short summary of this talk is given at the end of the Minutes which are presented in the usual order.)

MINUTES

The Secretary read the Minutes of the General Meeting of October 14. Minutes approved with one correction.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Jim Earthman, submitted a report of the balance in the treasury after recent deductions for expenses: \$1,098.85.

HOLIDAY SOCIAL EVENT

Membership Chair, Kathy Modzelewski, said that invitations to The Laffite Society's holiday party will be sent to current members, as well as to any new prospective subscribers. A note will be included reflecting the change of the meeting date to the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

BY-LAW COMMITTEE

A committee of Jim Nonus, Kathy & Jeff Modzelewski, and Dorothy McD. Karilanovic was appointed to consider By-Law amendments formulated by Ex-Officer member Randy Pace in February, 1996.

THE CHRONICLES

Editor-of-Publications, Jeff, stated that copies of The Laffite Chronicles, Vol. II, No. 1, January, 1996, along with updated membership lists prepared by Kathy, were sent out to all members.

LETTERS FOR EDITORS

Press Director, Dave Roberts, suggested that a committee be formed to draw up a Letter for the Editor describing the purpose and activities of The Laffite Society. This letter will be sent to various newspapers in Texas and Louisiana.

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS COLUMN

Editor-of-Publications, Jeff, suggested that members submit a list of research interests to be included in an on-going column for publication in The Chronicles.

LAFFITE MEDALLION

Member - jewelry designer and skilled metalsmith, Charles Kelly, presented a computer enhanced design of a two-sided medallion intended to commemorate the founding of The Laffite Society. Charles proposes to make the medal principally in silver, but with some in gold plate. For the price of \$30.00 members will be able to purchase the medal to wear as jewelry or to have in a commemorative holder. Charles stated that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of each medal will be donated to The Laffite Society.

Members were invited to discuss their ideas on the design of the medal. Changes were made in the spelling of the word "Galves" to "Galvez." A suggestion was made that the word "TEXAS" ought to appear somewhere on the medallion, but no motion was made to make this change. A general agreement by all was reached as to the

suitability of the design. Charles stated that production of the medal would go into effect immediately, and that the medals would be ready for presentation and sale at the Holiday Social on December 10.

CONTROVERSIAL INFORMATION ON JEAN LAFFITE'S DEPARTURE DATE FROM GALVESTON

Jean Epperson presented photocopies of documents claiming various dates for the final departure from Galveston of Jean Laffite. Jeff and Kathy Modzelewski volunteered to read the articles and make a report on the claims stated.

OFFICIAL NAVY DOCUMENTS CONFIRMING DATE OF LAFFITE'S DEPARTURE FROM GALVESTON AS 1820

Reginald Wilson presented photocopies of two letters from the U.S. Federal Archives, Record Group 45, #108, office of Naval Records, Captains' Letters, Vol. 1, #108, for 1820.

The first letter from Lt. Lawrence Kearny, written March 7, 1820, a report to Commodore Patterson, states that Laffite had "burned his house" and left the island.

This letter was included with a cover letter report from Commodore Patterson, dated March 17, 1820, to Secretary of the Navy, Smith Thompson, in Washington, D.C.

GROS PAINTING

Reginald Wilson presented a letter written by the former editor of The Laffite Study Group, Pam Keyes, referring to the famous painting of Jean Laffite by Gros. Pam stated that she has found a negative of this picture which had been published in the well known book, Jean Lafitte, Gentleman Rover, by Stanley Clisby Arthur. Her intention is to have a color print made, enlarged to the size of the original painting, "textured with lacquer to look exactly like the original."

NEW EVIDENCE TO AUTHENTICATE THE JOURNAL COLLECTION COPYBOOKS

Reginald gave out photocopies of recent correspondence from Pam Keyes giving evidence, in her estimation, of authenticity for some of the Journal copybooks: Some excerpts from her letter:

- 1) The "nearly blank large copybook at Sam Houston has a Frederic Youx entry that exactly matches the Frederic Youx Pandoure document signature at New Orleans," Pam says, leading her to conclude that Dominique Youx "definitely signed that part of the Journal collection."

- 2) Eugene Laffite, son of Pierre, "has several entries in the copybooks, though his handwriting there is different from that in the Journal." Pam states further that Robert Vogel stated in a letter to her of Nov. 8, 1975, that Eugene had spent time with the Laffites [it is presumed, he means Jean] as a teenager. She says the copybooks were probably easily accessible to him and to his brother, Pierre Charles, and are "similar to modern day autograph books, notebooks, etc.." From this, Pam concludes that the copybooks have "very close ties to Jean and Pierre Laffite," which lends support to the belief that they are authentic.

NEW BOOK ON LAFFITE

Member Don Marler announced the publication of a new book on Laffite, entitled:

Jean Laffite, Prince of Pirates, by Jack C. Ramsay, Jr., published by Eakin Press, Austin, TX., 1996.

Don said he intended to try and get in touch with the author to speak with him regarding some of his conclusions in the book and to see if he would consider speaking to the LS.

TVP Jim Nonus will review the book and report on it at a future meeting.

NEW BOOK BY JEAN L. EPPERSON

FVP Jean L. Epperson has written a new book, published by Dogwood Press, entitled:

Atascosito and Trinidad de Salcedo

Robert Schaadt, Director of the Sam Houston Library and Research Center at Liberty, Texas calls the book "a major reference work on Southwest Texas from the period 1756 to the 1830s."

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SPECIAL REPORT

Beginning at approximately 7:30 p.m., archeologist and physicist, Sheldon Kindall, presented an interim report on the June-July, '96 archeological investigation at 1417 Harborside Drive, the Maison Rouge site, at which time 6 pits were excavated. Sheldon displayed several bags of small artifacts mostly of bone, glass, and ceramics recovered from the pits. He explained to members the process of how to clean and classify them for preservation.

Sheldon indicated he would return at a later date to conduct this process of caring for the artifacts. He stated that a report on the dig would be prepared when the excavation is complete.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the FVP adjourned the General Meeting for the evening at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dorothy McDonald Karilanovic
Recording/Corresponding Secretary
THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

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DECEMBER 10, 1996

NO LAFFITE SOCIETY MEETING HELD

SPECIAL EVENT

"HOLIDAY SOCIAL"

THE EIBAND GALLERY

2201 POSTOFFICE STREET

GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550