

Texas A&M University at Galveston

Jack K. Williams Library

Reginald Wilson Papers, 1972-2012

Creator: Reginald Wilson, MD
Title: Laffite Research Collection
Date: 1972-2012
Abstract: Research files of Dr. Wilson pertaining to the lives and associates of Jean and Pierre Laffite, pirates/privateers living in Louisiana and Galveston, Texas. The collection consists of subject files containing letters, emails, articles, news clippings and other reports and accounts. A number of files pertain to the issues of authenticity regarding the Jean Laffite diary.
Location: MC 21
Size: 5 cubic feet
Repository: Jack K. Williams Library, Archives and Manuscripts, Texas A&M University at Galveston. Phone: 409-740-4560; Email: LIBRARY@tamug.edu
Donor: Dr. and Mrs. Reginald Wilson, 2012.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Reginald Wilson, physician, historian and amateur radio operator, was born February 14, 1920 in Liberty, Texas. He graduated with a medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in 1944. As a young doctor, he was assigned to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, where he met and married a young nurse Elizabeth "Betty" Olean Olson of Hatton, North Dakota. Betty graduated from the Kahler School of Nursing at the Mayo Clinic.

During World War II, Dr. Wilson was stationed as an Army physician at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois. He was in charge of the operating room in a 600 bed hospital. After the war ended, he and Betty established his private practice in Dayton, Texas. He retired forty years later. He and Betty also traveled for seven years to the Yucatan as medical missionaries to provide care to Mayan natives in a Presbyterian Church station at Xocemth, state of Yucatan, Mexico.

Dr. Wilson's interest in the history of privateers Jean and Pierre Laffite stems, in part, to a family connection. His Great-Great Aunt Annie Barber married one of the former "pirates" from Laffite's gang at Galveston. According to Dr. Wilson, Charles Tilton, a young boy from the northeast, served as a cabin boy with a whaling ship. A day after the ship left port, they were captured by one of Laffite's pirate ships. Tilton was the only member of the crew to survive. He was taken to Galveston and not allowed to leave until Jean Laffite was forced by the U.S. government to remove himself from Galveston Island. Initially, Tilton wound his way back home, but later returned to Texas and married Annie Barber.

Dr. Wilson joined The Laffite Society in 1994 and was a frequent contributor of articles to *The Laffite Society Chronicles*, including an article about Charles Tilton.

Sources:

"Wilsons honored by Laffite Society," *The Vindicator*, Liberty, Texas, October 4, 2012, p. 5A.
Wilson, Reginald. Phone interview, November 1, 2012, with Dawn Letson.
The Laffite Society Chronicles, 1995-2000.

Scope and Contents Notes

"Jean Laffite (ca.1776-ca.1823) and his older brother Pierre Laffite were French pirates and privateers in the Gulf of Mexico in the early 19th century." [Wikipedia] Though historical characters, the facts of their lives were surrounded by myth and legend. Born in France, they immigrated to the New World. By 1805, Jean Laffite operated a warehouse in New Orleans to disperse the goods smuggled by his brother, Pierre. They moved their operations to an island in Baratavia Bay (Wikipedia). Jean Lafitte helped Andrew Jackson and the United States in the War of 1812 against the British in exchange for pardons for him and his men. In 1815-1821 they moved their operations to Galveston, Texas, (which they called Campeche) where they spied for the Spaniards and were involved in smuggling and the slave trade.

This collection consists of 5 cubic feet of research files arranged alphabetically by subject. The contents include letters, emails, photocopies from published and manuscript sources, articles, poetry, news clippings, reports and accounts. The files pertain to the lives and associates of Jean and Pierre Lafitte. Dr. Wilson was very interested in the researching the authenticity of what is now considered a forged diary of Jean Laffite. Dr. Wilson corresponded extensively with many of the significant and published Laffite historians.

Series 1: Laffite Research Files

Box/Fd.

- 1
- 1817 Charts, Tariffs
 - Allen, David
 - Alton, Illinois: possible burial place of Jean Laffite
 - Alton Telegraph Newspaper: Files, reports & articles
 - Antoine-Lucien
 - Archives, National: Claiborne document
 - Arthur, C. Stanley: letters to John Laffite from Stanley Arthur
 - Aury, Louis: articles by Faye & Dabney
 - Barataria
 - Beluche
 - Bibles, Laffite
 - Books: bibliographies
 - Brig Enterprise
 - Burkett, Diane
 - Campbell, James
 - Cayo Cristo
 - Champ d'Asile
 - Claiborne's Proclamation
 - Company, The
 - Concha, Mario
 - Copy Book, Large
 - Copy Book, Small Bible
 - Cronea, Charlie
 - Culp Cemetery
 - Davis, Wm. C
 - DeGrummund Letter ETC
 - Deliberations, Register of
 - Denhigh Ship
 - Depredations
 - Diary, H.G. Warne
 - Donaldsonville
 - Ducoing, Jean
 - Dyer Papers
 - Enterprise
 - Epperson, Jean
- 2
- Fake Inst. DOC.
 - Faye, Stanley
 - Feuille, Sylvie: Paper re: false story of Laffite's in France
 - Filibusters (by John V. Clay)
 - Fontenelle
 - Formento, Dr.

Fretz, Gary
Fur Traders

Galveston
Galveston, Early History
Gambi: emails from Pam Keyes
Gardiner, Paul
Grand Isle
Grand Terre
Grave of Laffite
Groom, Winston
Gun Powder

Hamilton, Charles: Letter to/from
Howells, John: Letter
Huber, Don: Alton Al Harrison, Hoover
Hurricanes
Hurricane of 1893: by J. Henriot

Jackson, Andrew
Jarvis
Journal
Journal Index
Journal Pages
Journal: Sherron. Tim
Journal of Jean Laffite: Name Index
Junk
Jupiter

Karilanovic, Dorothy Email
Karilanovic, Dorothy Laffite
Karilanovic, Dorothy's Translations

La Porta, Jao de
LaBrave Doc
La Salle
La Violette, Paul

3

Laffite
Laffite Book, Belvene
Laffite, Jean
Laffite, Jean: Jean Laffite, the man
Laffite, John Andrechyne: Corres. With Audrey Lloyd, 1966-1967.
Laffite, John Andrechyne:
Corres., March 1977-Oct. 1979, between Audrey Lloyd, Lacie Laffite, John Howells, Christie Mitchell and Gov. Price Daniels re: efforts to obtain historical materials allegedly inherited by John Andrechyne Laffite.

Laffite, Lucius (son of Jean Laffite): email re: Lucius journal
Laffite, Rose
Laffite's Land Fort
Laffites, Story of
Laffite, Pierre
Laffite, Pierre: The Great Stroke of Pierre
Antoine Laffite
Laffite: Handwriting A&B
Jacques Laffite
J^NLaffite Handwriting
J^NLaffite marries C.L.
J^NLaffite Oct.4 Letter
Laffite Documents
Laffite Genealogy
Laffite Family (alleged documents)
Laffite, Patrick
Laffite's Secretary's
Lafitte Park, Etc.
Laffite Duplicates
Laffite in Arkansas
Laffite Study Group

Lafin
Lafon
Lamar Papers
LaTour, Arsense
Lavine, Christina (Lawein)
Le Brave, Etc
Lenox, August (Artist): "Ghost of Captain Kidd" – original once owned by Dr. Wilson.
Letter of marquee
Library of Congress
Lisan Letter
Litte, Francis
Little, Lois Ann
Long Letter
Long, Jane
Lord Byron: The Corsair (poem)
Louisiana: Descendants of Jean Laffite
Louisiana: Land Base Fort
Lynx

Maire
Mañé, Rubio
Maps
Marler, Don
Marshall, Gene
Maygarden, Ben

Mexico
Mina
Missouri Historical Society

4 New Orleans Association
Nafsinger
National Archives: Pirate trials, letter of Marque, etc
New Orleans , Battle of
Niles Weekly
Nobles, Cindy
Nolte, Vincent
Notarial Archives

Pablo F.
Parson U.T.
Paul La Violette
Pegasus Schooner
Pena, de La
Pirates
Potosi

Ramiro papers
Ramsay, Jack
Reeves, N.O.
Robidoux, Joseph
Rosenberg Library: index of Laffite materials; etc.

Sallier Family
Sam Houston Library: Index of Laffite materials
Santa Rosa, Eaton
Schoonover Grand Island
Seal, Privateer
SEL
Ships, Pirate
Simpson, William
Society Reports (NEW)
Sophie Log
Stauffer, Warren: Letter 2006
Swanson, Betsy: Jefferson Parrish

The Battle in the Bay of St. Louis 1814
Thompson, Ray & Sue
Tilton, CH.N.
Translations

Vies. L. J^N Marries
Vogel
Vogel

Voyage of the Enterprise

You, Frederiex
Yucatan

Original Documents (photocopies)

- 5 Laffite to Gov. Clayborne, Sept 4, 1814: Stray sheep letter
Col. Edward Nicolls address to Louisiana, 29 Aug 1814 (Forces in Florida)
Col. Nicole to J^N Laffite, 31 Aug 1814
Jⁿ Laffite to Mr. Blanque, 7 Sept. 1814
Jean Laffite to Monsieur, no date. Baratavia
Per Laffite to Patterson, 3 Jan 1820 – 1 March 1820
Per Laffite to Patterson, 3 Jan 1820 (only letter by Laffite in English)
Instruction from Capt. Percy to Capt. Lochyer, 30 Aug 1814
Laffite to Lachyer, 4 Sept 1814
Per Laffite to Capt. Garrison, 22 April 1813, Cartagena

The Corsair by Madeleine F. Kent (Copied by Pam Keyes)

Events & Misc.

- 5 Conference Galveston 2002
Events
LA. Historical Soc. Banquet, New Orleans
Laffite Society
Laffite Society New Orleans
Louisiana Genealogy + Hist. Soc
- Laffite Duplicates