An atypical weekday field trip on Monday, April 14th, featured a drive to Angleton and the Brazoria County Historical Museum, at which Laffite Society member, Michael Bailey, serves as curator.

Members in attendance were: Ed Jamison, Kathy Modzelwski, Jeff Modzelwski, George Najarian, Lizette Gaudin, Jim Nonus, Diane Olson, R. Dale Olson, Dave Roberts, Bill Haaga and Lynette Haaga.

The title of the talk by Michael, "Man in a Box", was sufficiently intriguing to encourage 15 members to attend the 10:30 a.m. talk at the museum. The topic related to the situation existing in hundreds of museums in the United States in which non-monetary donations exceed the museum's capacity to catalog, title and display. This backlog of material simply rests in a box.

The "Man in a Box" in this situation was Joseph P. Underwood, (1845-1925). He left numerous documents, items and memorabilia that his family later donated to the Brazoria County Historical Museum. The "box" was a carton of these items that museum staff analyzed, cataloged and presented on display for members of the Laffite Society.

In addition to an explanation of the items in the box, Michael led members through several storerooms where as-yet un-cataloged items ranging from Conquistadore stirrups to felt hats, firearms, cash registers, and thousands of other items are stored, awaiting the attention of museum staff.

The box also contained the following song:

In Brazoria County I was raised,
I feared neither death nor danger,
Until Captain Perkins enlisted me
To be a Texas Ranger

CHORUS

If ever I do get through this war
And Lincoln boys don't bind me,
I'll make my way safe back again,
To the girl I left behind me.

He dressed me up in and [sic] old blue shirt
And used me very kindly,
But still I thought my heart would break
For the girl I left behind me.

CHORUS

He took me down to guard the coast
From the infernal Yankees,
And fed me on some tough bull beef
And never gave me thankee.

CHORUS

B.O.B.

West Columbia, April 8, 1913