Previews of Upcoming Programs  
And the 2014 Laffite Seminar  

By  
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If the first half of the year is any indication, 2014 will be a great year for the Laffite Society. The first quarter program schedule has filled with quality speakers with interesting subjects, and the second annual Laffite Seminar has taken shape and is being fine tuned.

Our February program will be presented by Laffite Society member Root Choyce. Her talk will concern a general view of the types of ships that Laffite sailed and the types of ships he captured. She will include a description of what life was like on one of these vessels.

For our March meeting we will hear from noted numismatist and highly acclaimed author James Bevill. Mr. Bevill will speak on his book The Paper Republic: The Struggle for Money, Credit and Independence in the Republic of Texas. This non-fiction work on the social, financial, and economic history of Texas from the colonial period through annexation, will trace this period through the eyes of the Treasury department. What an interesting perspective, and one I feel we have not seen before.

The rest of the year is open for program suggestions, so let me once again invite anyone who wants to make a presentation or has a recommendation for a program to please contact me.

The Second Annual Laffite Society Seminar scheduled for April 25 and 26, 2014, has an impressive list of guest speakers. Their subjects are intriguing and should draw everyone’s attention. Society members making presentations include Jeff Modzelewski with a brief overall view of the lives of Jean and Pierre Laffite. This part of our seminars has become known as “Laffite 101”, a perfect description. Member Lou Graves MacBeth will talk on “The Crew Left Behind”, a reporting of Laffite’s crew and descendents who remained in the Galveston area after 1820. If you missed the 2012 Laffite banquet and the excellent presentation on the correspondence between “Audrey, Lacie, and John A.”, you can catch it at the seminar in April. It will have a stellar cast in Betty Conner, Helen Mooty, Larry Porter, and Jeff Modzelewski. It will indeed, keep you on the edge of your seat.

Here are the guest speakers and their subjects:

Andy Hall--- “David Porter and the Suppression of Piracy, 1823-1825”

Dr. Betje Klier--- “Emerging from the Wreckage of Champ d’Asile: Napoleonic Engineer Constantine Malezewski”

Dr. Andrew J. Torget, University of North Texas --- “Jim Bowie, Laffite, and Slavery”

As you can see the seminar will be jam-packed with exciting, entertaining, and enlightening presentations. Don’t miss it.

One more Laffite Society production you won’t want to miss will be the annual Mardi Gras celebration on Fat Tuesday, March 4th. There hasn’t been any official announcement yet, but I’ll bet it’s going to be at the old Panama Hotel lobby. It’s always a lot of fun so invite your friends, bring some food, and let’s enjoy ourselves. See ya there.