



## The Carrington Chronicles

**A quarterly update with important news and items of interest for the Paul Carrington chapter membership**

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### Chapter Officers, 2021 - 2022

We are pleased to announced the election of a full slate of officers for the upcoming administrative year.

- President** - Richard Lee Zdunkewicz  
**Vice President/President-elect** - David Peavy  
**Treasurer** - Daniel Robinson  
**Secretary** - Jeff Miers  
**Registrar** - Shelton Vaughan  
**Sergeant-at-Arms** - Fred Warner  
**Chaplain** - Samuel Massey, Jr.  
**Genealogist** - Charles Wagner  
**Historian** - Kevin Hagan  
**Chancellor** - Joe Davidson
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### Our Chapter's Accomplishments During 2020

Although 2020 was a very difficult year for many of us, and certainly for the Paul Carrington chapter in many ways, we were still able to accomplish many objectives towards our mission of honoring our country's history, recognizing our fellow citizens for their patriotic contributions, and building a tight-knit membership. To that end, I would like to highlight some of those accomplishments.

**George Washington Banquet** - the George Washington Distinguished Service Award was awarded to Carrington Weems in February of 2020, honoring his many contributions to business, community and the Arts in Houston. A crowd of over 165 were in attendance at Brennan's in downtown Houston to enjoy the timeless classics of the Divisi Strings Classic Quartet, the beautiful singing of Courtney Markowitz, the amazing Brennan's creole cuisine, and to honor compatriot Weems.

**Youth Programs** - during 2020 the chapter reinvigorated its youth programs in the greater Houston area under the leadership of Heritage Committee Chairman, David Peavy; recognition was awarded to numerous deserving young men and women for their ROTC leadership and excellent work on essay, brochure and other competitions.

**Membership Additions** - during 2020 the chapter added more than thirty-six new members, including eleven junior members. That is an effective increase of more than fifteen percent.

**Meeting Continuity Using Zoom** - during the year we were able to maintain a quality presentation program with tremendous speakers and subject matter using the Zoom video program. On average more than 20 attendees were present for meetings.

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## Upcoming Events

**March Zoom Meeting**, March 20th, 9:00 AM

**April Zoom Meeting**, April 17th, 9:00 AM

**May Breakfast Meeting**, May 22nd, 9:00 AM (tentatively to be held at Arnaldo Richard's Picos Restaurant, 3601 Kirby Drive); Zoom attendance will also be provided

Approximately two weeks in advance of each meeting, the chapter will send the members an email notification using Constant Contact for registration to attend. Through the process of registration, we can see who would like to attend the meeting.

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## Sharing Family Heritage and Stories



*Joseph Charles Sallier*

### The LeBleus, Salliers and Jean LaFitte in Louisiana - courtesy of Richard Zdunkewicz

My mother's family, the Chauvin de La Frenieres, were among the earliest settlers of the Gulf Coast, establishing first Mobile and then New Orleans with Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville in the early 1700's. In the 1770's, my patriot ancestor, Martin Camersac from Bordeaux, France, arrived in New Orleans and served under the Spanish Governor, Bernardo de Galvez in the battles at Manchac and Fort New Richmond (present-day Baton Rouge), defeating the British. In the early 19th century, Camersac's daughter, Catherine LeBleu Camersac, married Charles Sallier, after which Lake Charles is named.

The Salliers, LeBleus and Camersacs were well-acquainted with Jean Lafitte. The following is a bit of lore passed down by my mother's family.

During the years of 1815 to 1821, when Jean Laffite was headquartered in Galveston, he spent many hours slipping up through the Calcasieu River and Contraband Bayou into Lake Charles. Here he visited his friends, Charles and Catherine Sallier often, docking directly in front of the shell mounds in front of their house.

Circumstances are not clear, but somewhere along the line, Sallier became jealous of Laffite and accused Catherine of being "too friendly" with the privateer. One day, shortly after the birth of their sixth child, Charles, raging at Catherine, drew a pistol and shot her. She fell to the floor. Charles assumed she was dead and hastily exited the home. He jumped on his horse and raced to the other side of the lake and disappeared.

Charles Sallier was never heard from again; but Catherine Sallier did not die. She stood up and found the bullet that had hit her hand and then a brooch that she was wearing. The brooch kept the bullet from penetrating her body and saved her life. Catherine Sallier lived on at Shell Beach in Lake Charles until she died at the age of 75.



Jean Lafitte

She never remarried, and most people believe that she was completely innocent of Charles' accusation. To this day, handed down from generation to generation, Dorothy Barbe, has the amethyst brooch worn by Catherine and there are creases where it was struck by the bullet fired



**Sallier Homestead  
Shell Beach, Lake Charles, LA**

by Charles.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE STORIES ABOUT YOUR FAMILY  
AND ANCESTRY, PLEASE SUBMIT TO ME AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.

THANK YOU, RICHARD ZDUNKEWICZ