



Texas Navy Association

Historical Article



TO FERDINAND PINCKARD, ESQ., GALVESTON.

Matagorda, May, 1843.

My dear Sir—In answer to your letter, I have to state that Lafitte, the celebrated pirate, died in Yucatan at an Indian town, named Selang, (Silan,) about fifteen miles from Merida. He died in the second year of the independence of Mexico, (1826,) and was buried in the Campo Santo (burial place) of Selang. A tombstone was placed over him, stating his name, age, and time of his death (which is not now recollected by me.)

This same statement was made to me by the old Portuguese named Manuel Lopez, who served with him in Baratavia, and sailed under him from Charleston, South Carolina, for the island of Las Mugerres, near the coast of Yucatan. Lafitte then loaded the vessel with salt and dye-woods, and sent it back to Charleston, and, accompanied by Lopez, crossed over in a fishing-boat to Selang, where he took sick and died. Lopez assisted in burying him. This account is corroborated by many who were there with Commodore Thompson and Captain Boylan, during their Texan cruise in 1837. The late

Judge, S. Rhoadas, and several others, stated to me nearly the same facts. I have examined a file of the Matagorda Gazette, in which I published Lopez's statement, but have not been able to find it.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed,) Thomas M. Duke.

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